

Approved For Release 2007/08/31 : CIA-RDP80T00246A002200560001-5

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THE MERCANTILE SECRETARIAL SERVICE 10408

# NEWS SYNOPSIS

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The Extracts Below Are Translated From Current Thai And Chinese Newspapers.

The **M.S.S.** Only Translates Them And Neither Endorses The News Published Nor Vouches For Its Reliability.

Full Translation Can Be Supplied On Request.

Office: 589 New Road, Near Broadway. Cinema, Bangkok, Thailand. Tel: 20106

Vol. XI - Monday 23rd September 1957 - No. 29212

## FIELD MARSHAL SARIT SUGGESTS COALITION GOVERNMENT (Siamrath)

Before attending the National Assembly meeting last Saturday morning, Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat Military Commander of Bangkok, told newsmen that, of the Baht 10 million kept by Pol. Gen. Phao Sriyanond in deposit with the Provincial Bank Ltd., there remained only Baht 6.5 million, the balance having been spent by the disposed Police Chief. As the above allocation was for intelligence service, and not shown in the state budget, it would be difficult to make any charges against Pol. Gen. Phao concerning its use, it was explained.

Field Marshal Sarit related that U.S. Ambassador Max Waldo Bishop had assured him of full co-operation when the latter called on him at Suan Kularb Palace last Friday. Asked concerning plans he had in mind for improving the country, he stated that there will be more effective control of finance, development of the armed forces and increased welfare of the people, consistent with budgetary allotments. U.S. aid for this task will be welcome if there are no strings attached. The aid agreements with America will have to be revised so as to be really beneficial to the people; he declared. All arrangements with the United States which tend to get our country under American domination will have to be scrapped, it was stated.

Before ending the interview, the Field Marshal suggested that certain provisions of the Electoral Act should be amended for more suitability and that the provisional government to be in office until the general elections, should be a coalition.

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REORGANIZATION OF POLICE SERVICE (Siamrath)

Gen. Sawai Sawaisaenyakorn, the newly appointed Police Director-General, stated to newsmen last Friday before attending a National Assembly meeting that he is planning a large scale reorganization of the police service to make it genuinely beneficial to the people. In future politics will not be allowed to influence the service.

Hitherto most of the budget of the Pol. Department has been used for political purposes, with the result that junior career police have not been properly cared for with regard to their personal advancement. Man power and arms were also lacking for proper maintenance of peace and order in provincial areas.

The new Police Chief in reorganizing the police service, should also not forget about the many sensational cases allegedly involving certain police officers. Such cases should be clarified to the satisfaction of the public and the guilty police personnel punished so as to serve as a warning to others.

SUPPRESSION OF HOOLIGANS (Chaotthai)

The Police Dept., is launching a step by step campaign against hooligans in the capital. The other day persons black-listed as hooligans were summoned and warned that if they would not switch to honest livelihood, they would be punished without any further leniency.

The police are at present paying increased attention to brothels, gambling dens, landing places and bus terminuses where hooligans usually resort.

MOST MODERN WEAPONS FOUND IN POLICE ARMORY (Khaoraiwan)

It may be recalled that a considerable time before the coup, a plane chartered by the SEA Supply Co. brought in 69 cases for the Police Dept. Rumors were rife at the time that they contained smuggled gold, although the Police Dept. maintained that there were only small firearms and ammunition. The 69 cases were mentioned during the recent general debate in the National Assembly with members airing suspicion that Pol. Gen.

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Phao Sriyanond had been smuggling in counterfeit currency notes or gold.

During the coup night of September 16 Lt. Gen. Prabhas Charusathien and Lt. Gen. Thanom Kitkachorn led a regiment to seize the police Naresuan camp at Hua Hin. With the police surrender, the military began checking the contents of the armory there. It was reported that the above two high army officers were startled to find in the 69 cases the most modern weapons not possessed by the military. Special weapons for destroying heavy tanks were also contained in the cases, it was reported.

It was learned that the SEA Supply Co. sold these weapons to the Pol. Dept. for use by the police paratroops.

NO FORMER MINISTERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT (Prachatiptai)

Last Saturday, Maj. Gen. Kris Sivara, spokesman of the Military Group, stated that no ministers in the ousted Pibul government will participate in the new government headed by Nai Pote Sarasin. He explained that it would be against etiquette to invite any ministers toppled by the Military Group to join the new Cab. Council.

The above clarification sets to rest rumours that Field Marshal Phin Chanhawan, Lt. Gen. Banyat Thephasadin Na Ayuthia and Col. Nai Varakarn Bancha would be appointed ministers in the new government.

FIELD MARSHAL SARIT ON FREE HAND GIVEN TO NEW PREMIER (Prachatiptai)

After the National Assembly meeting last Saturday, Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat, Military Commander of Bangkok, told newsmen that Nai Pote Sarasin, the newly appointed Premier, is most suited for his post as he enjoys good relationship with all sides, including H.M. the King, Military Group, and foreign countries. The Field Marshal assured that the Premier will absolutely not be under the control of the military. Khun Pote is a man of high spirits and he once resigned his ministerial post in the Pibul government due to a major difference of opinion with the Cabinet Council, the Field Marshal pointed out.

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He declared that he would not accept any Cabinet post, preferring to remain with the army and maintain his popularity with the people. He is getting increasingly gaunt since he was idolised by the people, he remarked.

CABINET FORMATION BEING MADE BY PREMIER (Prachatiptai)

Now that he has been appointed Premier by Royal Proclamation, Nai Pote Sarasin is busy forming his Cabinet.

According to our investigations, the Cabinet line-up will be as follows:

Nai Pote Sarasin, Premier  
Gen. Thanon Kitikachorn, Defence Minister,  
Air Mar. Boonchoo Chandarubheksa and  
Vice Adm. Sanong Thanasakdi, Deputy  
Defence Ministers.

Lt. Gen. Prabhas Charusathien, Interior  
Minister, Luang Athapricha Chanupakorn,  
Deputy Interior Minister.  
Dr. Sorn Vinitchaikul, Finance Minister,  
Nai Pote Sarasin, Foreign Affairs Minister,  
Air Marshal Thavi Chulasap, Deputy  
Foreign Affairs Minister.  
Phya Athakari Nipon, Justice Minister  
Maj. Gen. Pachorn Minibutr, Education  
Minister, Nai Sukit Nimmanahemin,  
Industry Minister.

As Air Marshal Chalorakiat Watanangkul declined to become Economic Affairs Minister, this post is expected to be given to Nai Khuang Apaiwongse, with Maj. Gen. Chiti Nawisathien as Deputy Economic Affairs Minister.

There was to be a meeting last Sunday at 9 p.m. to consider choices for the Communications Ministry, the Agriculture Ministry, the Public Health Ministry, the Co-operatives Ministry and the Culture Ministry.

Nai Sukit Nimmanahemin and Nai Khuang Apaiwongse are to be included in the new Cabinet Council because of their opposition role, a strong factor responsible for overthrow of the Pibul government. Their participation will also be in line with Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat's suggestions favouring a coalition government.

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FIELD MARSHAL PIBUL TO GO TO AMERICA (Prachatiptai)

Close aides of the former premier who accompanied him in his flight from Bangkok stated that Field Marshal Pibulsonggram will never return to Thailand so long as he cannot resume premiership.

It was learned that the Field Marshal is waiting in Cambodia for funds to be sent out to him by his relatives in Bangkok. His present plan is to fly from Saigon to America after receipt of the money.

SPECIAL QUALIFICATION OF NEW PREMIER (Prachatiptai)

Nai Pote Sarasin, the newly appointed Premier, only entered his political career after the Nov. 8, 1947 coup. He had not been holding government post before that time.

It was stated that during the eclipse of Field Marshal Pibulsonggram's power before the coup, Nai Pote permitted the Field Marshal to live in Chitlom Villa rent-free. On his resumption of government power, Marshal Pibul, by way of showing his gratitude, appointed Nai Pote Foreign Affairs Minister. Subsequently Nai Pote resigned from the Cabinet following a major difference of opinion with it. Later, when H.R.H. Prince Wan Vaidhayakorn took up the Foreign Affairs portfolio, it was Marshal Pibul who got Nai Pote appointed as Thai Ambassador to Washington.

In supporting the election of Nai Pote Sarasin to premiership, the Military Group has given concrete proof that it has not seized power from Marshal Pibul out of any personal grudge against him.

LADY LA-IAD NOT RETURNING TO THAILAND FOR THE PRESENT (Siannikorn)

Nang Promsri Pibulsonggram, wife of Lt. Col. Anand Pibulsonggram, has reportedly contacted Lady La-iad Pibulsonggram, her mother-in-law now in Switzerland by radio telephone and learned that Lady La-iad will not return to Thailand for the present. She is reported as waiting for the arrival of her husband from Phnompenh, Cambodia. Maj. Rak Punyarachon and Pol. Lt. Col. Chulit Prani-prachachon, sons-in-law of the Field Marshal are now arranging to send him his wardrobe before departure for Switzerland.

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Vol. XI - Tuesday 24th September 1957 - No. 29213

## THE NEW CABINET (MSS)

According to Radio Thailand broadcast last night, the following have been appointed to the new Cabinet Council by royal proclamation in accordance with the state constitution 1932 which was amended in 1952:

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Nai Pote Sarasin                     | Premier and Fin. Minister |
| 2. Lt. Gen. Thanon Kitikachorn          | Defence Minister          |
| 3. Maj. Gen. H.R.H. Prince Wan.         | Foreign Affairs Min.      |
| 4. Nai Vibul Dharmabut                  | Agr. Minister             |
| 5. Nai Sprang Thephasadin Na Ayuthia.   | Comm. Min.                |
| 6. Lt. Gen. Prabhas Charusathien.       | Int. Minister             |
| 7. Phya Athakari Nibhon                 | Justice Minister          |
| 8. M.L. Pin Malakul                     | Culture Minister          |
| 9. M.L. Pin Malakul                     | Education Minister        |
| 10. Nai Sukit Niamanhemin               | Ec. Affairs Minister      |
| 11. Nai Vibul Dharmabut                 | Co-operatives Min.        |
| 12. Nai Chalerm Prommas                 | Pub. Health Min.          |
| 13. Gen. Luang Swasdi Kelayuth          | Industry Minister         |
| 14. Air Vice Marshal Boonchoo.          | Dep. Defence Min.         |
| 15. Vice Adm. Sanong Thanasakdi         | " " "                     |
| 16. Lt. Gen. Chiem Yanothai             | " Finance Min.            |
| 17. Nai Visuth Athayuk                  | " Foreign Min.            |
| 18. Maj. Gen. Kris Punnakarn            | " Agr. Min.               |
| 19. Maj. Gen. Pong Punnakarn            | " Comm. Min.              |
| 20. Rear Adm. Charoon Chalernutierana   | " " "                     |
| 21. Lt. Gen. Luang Kampanart Saenyakorn | Int. " "                  |
| 22. Nai Thavi Raengkham                 | Dep. Int. " "             |
| 23. Maj. Gen. Amporn Chintakanand       | " Justice Min.            |
| 24. Maj. Gen. Pachern Ninitbutr         | " Culture Min.            |
| 25. Maj. Gen. " "                       | " Edu. Min.               |
| 26. Lt. Gen. Chitti Navisathien         | " Ec. Af. Min.            |
| 27. Maj. Gen. Chalaw Charuclas          | " Co-operative Min.       |
| 28. Nai Cheh Abdula Langputeh           | " Public Health "         |
| 29. Nai Sanguan Chandrasaka             | " Industry Min.           |

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PUBLIC RELATIONS CHIEF CONFIRMS DISMISSAL OF  
POL. GEN. PHAO (HSS)

A report of yesterday's press conference given by Lt. Gen. Surachit Charuserani, Director-General, Public Relation Dept., was read over Radio Thailand last night, denying that Pol. Gen. Phao Sriyanond has been appointed as councillor to the Thai Legation in Berne, as published by some local dailies. It was stated that Pol. Gen. Phao Sriyanond and his aides, Pol. Colonels Put Buranassapob and Pansakdi Vesosbhakdi have been dismissed from posts in the government, and that the Thai Legation in Berne has been informed accordingly.

The Director-General also disclosed that a committee headed by the Police Chief has been named to investigate criminal charges, including those under the Anti-Communist Act. The committee will enquire into reports concerning the illegal use of state funds by some politicians. It was alleged that before going abroad a politician gave a sum of money to a local newspaper to start a propaganda drive on his behalf.

Allegations that some persons have received a commission for financializing the Yankee loan and the aircraft deal of the Thai Airways Co. will also be investigated.

For the reason of the dismissal of Pol. Gen. Phao Sriyanond and the above two police officers, the Director-General reported that it was connected with politics. Government officials of unbecoming conduct may be dismissed from government service, it was explained.

Lt. Gen. Surachit also sounded a warning against misrepresentation of news by some local dailies.

Regarding Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat, Military Bangkok Commander, it was pointed out that it is not his duty to make revisions and amendments as requested by some quarters. This is the proper duty of the government which has now been set up. On appointment of second category National Assemblymen, it was confirmed that their term will not extend beyond the transitory provision of the state constitution.

Concerning newspaper recommendations that Thailand steer clear of imperialism and leave SEATO, the Director-General declared that it does not appear that Thailand is being taken advantage of by other nations involved in the military alliance pact.



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After appointment of the Cabinet Council the Military Group is ready to hand over power to the new government. To-day the government will announce its policy to the National Assembly for a confidence vote, it was disclosed.

There is no truth in the sensational rumours about the Naresuan police camp. The Pet-chaburi military authorities have now control over the police there, it was explained. Weapons of the Naresuan Camp have been taken to Bangkok.

Lastly, the Public Relation Chief warned against further holding of Hyde Park rallies. Now that martial law has been declared all over the country public rallies are prohibited. In future offenders will be severely dealt with.

#### PREMIER ON SEATO AND FOREIGN POLICY (Phincha)

Asked for his view on attacks by certain local newspapers that he was following in America's footsteps, Nai Pote Sarasin, the newly elected Premier, stated last Sunday morning that when he served as Thai Ambassador to Washington he had tried his utmost to protect our country's interests. He pleaded that those attacking him should try to be responsible and state their reasons for so doing.

Regarding foreign policy, he confirmed that his government will follow the policy laid down by the last government. Thailand will continue to observe every treaty concluded with foreign countries, it was assured.

On the attacks by some people and dailies against SEATO, the Premier explained that it is not right to say that SEATO is provocative of war. Actually, SEATO acts like a bulwark against aggression to our country. The total expenditure of Baht 14 million for SEATO is not contributed alone by Thailand. Other member nations have a share in the expenses, it was explained. He added that actually the average expenditure of every Thai taxpayer in respect of SEATO comes to less than Stangs. 6.

Asked concerning Field Marshal Pibul-songgram who fled the country, refusing to resign as premier, Nai Pote Sarasin declined to comment saying that it was a personal question and that he still respected the former premier.

Replying to a query, he promised the forthcoming general elections will be absolutely clean. He assured that, as leader of the provisional government which will be in office until the general elections, he will not promulgate any law which may embarrass the next government.

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WHY PEOPLE DISLIKE AMERICA (Siamrath)

During recent years Thailand has become increasingly known to the world. There are many reasons for this, one of which is that Bangkok has been selected for the SEATO headquarters. On the eve of the eleventh session of the SEATO Military Advisers' Conference, our country passed through another coup d'etat, whose impact on foreign countries is diversified. Although the Communist nations expressed gratification at the development, SEATO member nations, notably America, are full of misgivings.

Since the end of World War II, the United States has been acting as Thailand's big brother. American liberalities have created the impression to many countries and the Thai people that Thailand is being dominated by the United States. During the term of the Pibul government, the Thai people strongly felt that their country was insuperably under American influence. The Pibul Administration acted like a baby who refuses to grow up. Instead of trying to achieve self-sufficiency for the nation, the last government continued unremittently to seek U.S. assistance in practically all spheres of activity.

Even American residents here used to say that the U.S. Ambassador and the Pibul government were inseparable.

The fact is that America has been giving aid not only to our country, but also to others. For instance, India, despite her neutralist stand, is receiving more U.S. aid than Thailand. However, India will not tolerate any U.S. aid which will place it under American control.

A careful study will convince us that we cannot blame America for the situation of our country. The Pibul government is the guilty party. In view of malpractices in the last Administration, America had to keep on the look-out, lest what had happened to the China mainland under the Kuomintang government should be repeated here. It was not to be wondered then that American aids to Thailand in the recent past had strings attached to them. America eventually handled some activities here as otherwise it could not be sure whether results achieved would justify the heavy expenditure incurred. Therefore, the charges about American interferences in the internal affairs of our country and the dislike harboured by the Thai people against America along with their hatred of the Pibul government are easily understandable in view of the above explanation. The chief cause of the Thai people's dislike of America is no other than Field Marshal Pibulsonggram and his government.

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M.R. SENI FEELS SATISFIED WITH NEW PREMIER (Siam Radh)

For heading the provisional government, Nai Pote Sarasin is the best possible choice, it was stated by M.R. Seni Pramote, onetime premier and former Thai Ambassador to Washington. He added that the new premier can be depended upon to administer the country during his term with good judgment. It was noted that Nai Pote Sarasin resigned as Foreign Affairs Minister in a Pibul government because he disagreed with a Cabinet Council resolution to recognise the Bao Dai regime in Vietnam. This shows he wanted to be himself, M.R. Seni remarked.

Nai Pote Sarasin's appointment is also in line with the country's policy for continued friendship with America on an equal basis, it was stated.

As a gentleman and a politician well versed in democracy, the new Premier is inspiring confidence that the forthcoming general elections will be conducted in all fairness. M.R. Seni noted that general elections are the most important basis of a country's democratic regime. The people should be well satisfied if there can be clean general elections, M.R. Seni stressed.

TRANSFERS OF HIGH POLICE OFFICERS (Siam Radh)

The Commander Headquarters on September 22 made the following transfers and appointments :

1. Pol. Col. Siri Kochahiran, secretary of the Police Department, is appointed police commander attached to the Central Investigation Division.
2. Lt. Col. Pisis Korndilok, police commander attached to the Central Investigation Division, is appointed secretary of the Police Department.
3. Pol. Col. Paj Peganand, commander of the Crime Suppression Division, is now attached to the Police Department.

FINANCE MINISTRY'S EXPLANATION ABOUT BAHT 10 MILLION GIVEN TO FORMER POLICE CHIEF (Siam Nikorn)

Radio Thailand in the evening of September 22 broadcast a statement of the Finance Ministry concerning the Baht 10 million allocation given to Pol. Gen. Phao Sriyanond, former Police Chief and Interior Minister.

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It was stated that the above allocation was authorised by the last Cabinet Council in response to a request from the Interior Ministry, for the purpose of maintenance of peace and order, by the Police Department. On September 13 the above amount was placed by the Department in deposit with the Provincial Bank Ltd. The following day, the Department drew out Baht 3.5 million from the deposit. Two cheques were made out by the Department on September 18 for withdrawal of the balance of Baht 6.5 million. However the bank refused to honour the cheques which were presented after seizure of power by the Military Group.

The statement declared that the Finance Ministry had not paid out Baht 55 million to the former premier as rumoured. Actually, two amounts were paid out for the purchase of two Super Constellations ordered by the Thai Airways Co. One payment of Baht 24 million was made on August 21 and the other of Baht 31 million on September 10, it was explained.

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' WANT TO ASSIST IN GENERAL ELECTIONS (Siam Nikorn)

Students of the Chulalongkorn University met yesterday to discuss a two point proposal to the new government. It was decided that students of Chulalongkorn, Thanasat and Agriculture Universities request the government (1) to give increased attention to promotion of the police service and education, and (2) to let university students assist in the general elections to be held within three months.

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Office: 589 New Road, Near Broadway. Cinema, Bangkok, Thailand. Tel: 20106

VOL. XI - Wednesday 25th September 1957 - No. 29214

### NAI POTE MAKES POLICY STATEMENT IN ASSEMBLY (Chaothai)

Yesterday morning before attending the National Assembly to announce his government's policy, Nai Pote Sarasin, Premier, expressed belief that his Cabinet would be given a vote of confidence. He expected to be able to have an audience with H.M. the King together with his Cabinet in the afternoon.

The following 15-point policy statement was made to the National Assembly by the Premier: The government will be guided by the people's interests in pursuing administrative policies and everything will be done to promote national welfare. The government will uphold democracy, the constitution, the monarch, promote Buddhism as well as other religions. Treaties with foreign countries will be observed. Principles of the United Nations will be closely adhered to. There will be promotion of friendship with all nations compatible with equity, public well being and national stability. The police will be reorganised and improve so as to make police personnel the people's own. Lastly, it was assured that the general elections to the National Assembly will be held within 90 days in all fairness and according to the law.

After the policy statement, Maj. Gen. Annuay Chairote, second category member, suggested that the government leave off following in the footsteps of America and withdraw from SEATO in accordance with public wishes. The General said that, according to the "Chao Thai" Hyde Park speakers strongly attacked the government for continuing to adhere closely to SEATO and the United States.

In his reply, the Premier spoke at length on the reasons and necessities for the government's stand as previously disclosed in his previous press interviews and as explained by the

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last government. The gist of his explanations is that American aids are without strings attached and that SEATO is aimed at combatting aggression and should not be considered as provocative of war.

After debates by several other members, the meeting gave a vote of confidence to the government.

#### MILITARY GROUP AG INST FORMER PREMIER'S RETURN (Chasthai)

The Military Group has definitely reached a resolution against permitting Field Marshal Pibulsonggram, former premier, to return, it was stated by Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat, Military Commander of Bangkok to newsmen yesterday in front of the National Assembly.

He added that he had received a report from the Thai Military Attache in Cambodia concerning the flight of Marshal Pibul to that country where he is staying at present. The attache also sought his view as to what should be done regarding Marshal Pibul.

The Military Commander said the Military Group's reason for opposing the former premier's return is that it may lead to internal trouble. Marshal Pibul may not want to do so at first if permitted to return but in time he may have to give in to others' persuasions as already happened in the past, Field Marshal Sarit pointed out.

As for Pol. Gen. Phao Sriyanond, he said the Military Group originally thought of appointing him counsellor to the Thai Legation in Berne. After due deliberations, however, it was decided to dismiss the General from all posts in the government.

#### MARTIAL LAW TO BE LIFTED SOON (Chasthai)

Lt. Gen. Thanasit Kitikachorn, Defence Minister, expressed belief that martial law will be lifted at least one month before the general elections so as to permit full campaigning by candidates running for election to the National Assembly. Meanwhile, political parties may start house to house solicitation of votes but public rallies cannot be held, he explained.

After the government functions smoothly, Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat will resign as Military Commander of Bangkok, it was disclosed.

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PRESS COMMENTS ON GOVERNMENT'S FOREIGN POLICY  
(Chattai)

Following a Royal Command appointing him Premier last Saturday afternoon, Nai Pote Sarasin, former sec.-gen. of SEATO, stressed to newsmen that his government would continue to abide by the foreign policy laid down by the Pibul Administration.

The following day, local dailies aired their disappointment in the new government in respect of foreign policy.

The "Daily Mail" stated that most likely Nai Pote Sarasin would be more vehemently attacked by the people than the last premier in the matter of foreign policy. The appointment of the former sec.-gen. of SEATO to premiership was a victory for the West, particularly America, but to the Thai people it was a defeat for their cause. The people, in their fight for the last government to realign its foreign policy, felt convinced that the pattern of cementing ties with the West by the Administration would not lead to alleviation of their hardships.

The "Thai Raiwan" declared that the people were dissatisfied with the Pibul government for following in the footsteps of the United States and the new Premier who was former secretary-general of SEATO could scarcely be considered suitable for affectively dealing with the country's situation. In an article captioned "SEATO go away!" the above daily requested the government to adopt a neutralist stand.

The "Khasparb" stated that the election of Nai Pote Sarasin as Premier meant that the new government would continue to closely follow in the footsteps of America. Nai Pote reportedly used to state that public opinion should emanate only from the National Assembly. This showed that the Premier would never understand the needs of the people, it was declared.

Studying the government set-up, one cannot help thinking that the administration will not run smoothly. The government is a coalition of three groups - the military, the Sahabhum Party and persons who have not been playing politics before.

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NAI KHUANG COMMENTS ON NEW PREMIER (Siamrath)

Speaking of Nai Pote Sarasin, premier, who will be in office only for 90 days, Nai Khuang Apaiwongse, leader of the Democrat Party, stated that one should not expect too much of the present interim government. It should be regarded as a nurse in temporary charge of a patient pending the arrival of a well qualified doctor, that is the government to be formed after the general elections.

As for the Cabinet inclusion of Nai Snguan Chandarasakha, half brother of Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat, he explained that it was to give training in administration to Nai Snguan. It is good policy to appoint trustworthy men to the Cabinet, he explained.

Nai Khuang expressed belief that the appointment of Nai Snguan Chandarasakha, sec.-general of the Sahabhai Party, as Deputy Industry Minister, would not affect in any way the coming general elections.

Thainai: Thailand cannot but stick on to a pro-west foreign policy and America, as otherwise the country would not be able to survive, it was stated by Nai Khuang Apaiwongse, leader of the Democrat Party yesterday. Under to-day's world conditions, our country cannot remain neutral, he added.

Confronting the new administration are all weighty issues. The government has a full hugean stable of corruptions to clean; the country's economy is sagging; internal administration needs thorough overhauling. The last government was deep in the red and the new government, like a tricycle man, has to work up momentum by strong pedalling when the green light is on. The tricycle will then have to travel in the direction wanted by the passenger, i.e. the public, otherwise there will be trouble again, he stated.

Asked for his view about government after the general elections, Nai Khuang stated that much will depend also on the attitude of the second category assemblymen. A majority of first category seats in the National Assembly will not automatically entitle a political party to form the next government, he explained. This means that the people's mandate as reflected by the representatives elected to the National Assembly is for the present not yet considered of paramount importance. Administrative policies of the next government will be influenced also by the decisions of the second membership.



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POL. LT. GEN. LANAI WASHING HIS HANDS OF POLITICS  
(Sathieraparb)

The other day Nai Kasem Pathumviang and fifteen members of the Seri-Manangasila Party called on Pol. Lt. Gen. Lanai Uthayanonond, former Deputy Agriculture Minister, and a leader of the Party, to solicit his assistance in their forthcoming election campaigns.

Explaining the Seri-Manangasila Party's position, the General declared to the members that it is now that of a broken raft, following the departure of both the leader and the sec.-gen. Many members of the party executive committee have aired their intention to resign, it was reported. Pol. Maj. Gen. Lanai disclosed that he did not intend to run in the forthcoming general elections. He advised Nai Kasem and his friends to join the Sahabhum Party, pointing out that the new government backed by the Military Group adheres to the policies of the last Administration.

LUANG BURAKAM STILL WORKS AT BEW (Prachatipatai)

It was learned that Col. Luang Burakam Kovit, former general manager of the Bangkok Electric Works, still attend office at this body like before. His attitude is that of one who has never resigned from it. The presence of the Khun Luang acts like a wet blanket to ambitious younger men who, out of respect for their former chief, dare not go ahead the way they like in running the BEW.

At first we thought that the Colonel might have been reinstated, especially as, following the overthrow of the last government, a scramble started among officials and others to work themselves into lucrative posts. However, enquiry with sources close to Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat, Military Commander of Bangkok, does not bear out the above speculation. Informants told our reporters that there has been no order issued for Luang Burakan's reinstatement. Some quarters however, speculated that he might have been helped by Lt. Gen. Prabhas Charusathien, who served in the last government as Dep. Interior Minister, which post was also held jointly by the Colonel.

Our acquaintances in the BEW stated that since his resignation from the BEW (following the last Cabinet's injunction for ministers to pull out of government organizations and trade corporations), the Colonel has continued attending office at the BEW. He has not shifted anywhere else, it was added.

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We have from the beginning been cheering the Military Group for their signal achievements in the nation's interests. We therefore feel that we shall not be disappointed in our expectation that proper steps will be taken in the above paltry affair. The Military Group should pay attention also to little things as otherwise they will develop out of proportion and cause public dissatisfaction and criticism.

YANKEE TIMBER DEAL (Tradeneews)

A committee was named by the last government to study the advisability of selling the Yankee timber to Mai Peng Limprabhand and Chao Vorathas Na Lampoon, former assemblymen.

Yesterday, Mai Peng told our representative that the offer of Baht 100 million submitted by him and his friend for the Yankee timber still stands. He expressed the hope that the new government will take up the offer for study as soon as possible.

EXPORT BAN ON EGGS LIFTED (Tradeneews)

According to a notification by the Economic Affairs Ministry the export ban on eggs has been lifted as from September 16. Henceforth no export licenses are required for this commodity.

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## THE MERCANTILE SECRETARIAL SERVICE

# NEWS SYNOPSIS

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Office: 589 New Road, Near Broadway. Cinema, Bangkok, Thailand. Tel: 20106

Vol. XI - Thursday 26th September 1957 - No. 29215

### THAI GOVERNMENT RECOGNISED BY FOUR COUNTRIES (Dhamatipat)

Within ten days after the coup on September 16, conditions in Thailand have rapidly returned to normal, enabling formation of a new government now already recognised by four countries, viz. Britain, France, America and Australia, it was stated by Nai Pote Sarasin, Premier, before attending yesterday's National Assembly meeting.

In a separate interview, Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat., Military Commander of Bangkok, disclosed that the Cambodian Military Attache had handed him a letter from former Premier Field Marshal Pibulsonggram, requesting permission to return to Bangkok to make arrangements regarding his properties, after which, if desired by the authorities, he would be willing to leave the country again.

Field Marshal Sarit declared that the former premier has a legal right to return. In such an event, it is up to the committee in charge of investigations to determine whether a case may have to be brought against him. Field Marshal Sarit expressed the opinion that the former premier should postpone his return for the time being as the country's situation is not quite normal yet. Pressure might be put on the Marshal Pibul to stage a political come-back should he return, it was stated.

According to reports received by Field Marshal Sarit, the former premier would proceed to Saigon to await the arrival of Lady La-lad Pibulsonggram.

Yesterday the National Assembly passed in all reading stages, a bill for granting amnesty to participators in the September 16 coup and another bill for improving the country's defences.

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Chao Thai: After yesterday's National Assembly meeting, Lt. Gen. Thanon Kitikachorn, Defence Minister, told newsmen that Field Marshal Sirit Thamarat will be appointed supreme commander of the armed forces. He added that, in the afternoon, he would have an audience with H.M. the King for royal proclamation of the appointment. At the same time the Field Marshal would relinquish his post of Military Commander of Bangkok, it was stated.

#### DISINTERGRATION OF SERI-MAN. PARTY (Chaathai)

Nai Swasdi Kamprakorb, former Deputy Public Health Minister, and spokesman of the Seri-Manangasila Party, told newsmen yesterday that the Party is not in a faint but in a process of disintegration. It is up to the military to order taking down the name board of the Seri-Manangasila Party whenever they like, he added.

Asked about the coming general elections, he explained that he and his friends will campaign for election independently. If elected as people's representatives, they may form a party of their own. Nai Swasdi speculated that at least 40 former first category assemblymen would be returned by the electorate in the forthcoming elections. He confirmed that six members of the Seri-Manangasila Party who are former assemblymen have joined the Sahabun (Unionist Party).

Nai Swasdi disclosed that Pol. Maj. Gen. Lamai Uthayanand, former Deputy Agriculture Minister will wash his hands of politics, as Lt. General Thanon Kitikachorn will send him to Changwad Pang-nga in connection with a mining business.

#### INTERIOR MINISTER'S OPINION ON ELECTION CANDIDATES' QUALIFICATIONS (Chaathai)

Yesterday morning before attending the National Assembly meeting, Lt. Gen. Prabhas Charusathien, Interior Minister, expressed as his personal opinion that the qualifications for election candidates should be raised. A candidate should be at least 25 or 30 years of age, against the present requirement of 20 as provided for in the Electoral Act. The education standard should also be raised from Pathan 4 to Hathayon 6, he said.

Asked about Col. Luang Burakan Kovit, former General Manager of the Bangkok Electric Works, who was reported as still attending office in this organization, the Interior Minister stated

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that the Colonel, having resigned his post, has no more duty in the organization.

#### HYDE PARK MEETINGS SUSPENDED (Dhanatipat)

Last Thesday evening, crowds again flocked to Pramane Ground, expecting to hear Hyde Park speakers as usual, but they were disappointed. They found a notice stating that in view of the order of the Command Headquarters, no more Hyde Park rallies will be held for the time being. The notice was signed by Nai Amporn Ampanwongse, who recently led a parade to demonstrate for appointment of Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat as premier.

One Hyde Park orator told our representative that the government should be allowed time to show its capability in administering the country. If there appear irregularities later on, these will have to be pointed out at Hyde Park meetings, it was explained.

#### PROHIBITION AGAINST MOVEMENTS OF TERRITORIAL DEFENCE VOLUNTEERS (Siannikorn)

Prior to the September 16 coup, Pol. Gen. Phao Sriyanond in his capacity as Interior Minister, held a meeting of Changvad Governors and Police Commanders from all parts of the country on policies in connection with the territorial defence volunteers.

It was learned that last Tuesday, Pol. Gen. Luang Chartrakarn Kosol, Interior Undersecretary, issued an order forbidding movements of the volunteers to prevent misunderstanding during the present time. It was stressed that martial law has been declared all over the country.

#### ELECTORAL LAW BEING AMENDED (Siannikorn)

Pol. Gen. Luang Chartrakarn Kosol, Int. Undersecretary, told our reporter yesterday morning that amendments are being drafted for the Electoral Act in the light of reported shortcomings concerning the February 26 elections. He declined to divulge details, stating that these will have to be studied first by the Interior Minister.

From other sources we learn that election districts would be designated to facilitate control and counting of ballots. Balloting

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under the old system caused a considerable delay in the counting. The example of Kaphur Dusit in the last general elections was cited.

FORMER DEPUTY SPEAKER MEETS POL. GEN. PHAO  
IN GENEVE. (Siannikorn)

During his stop-over in Geneva, Nai Non Upramai, former Deputy Speaker, called on Gen. Phao Sriyanond at Boreva Hotel, near the Geneva Lake on September 20 at about 1 p.m., Nai Non told our reporter yesterday following his return from an I.R.A. conference in London.

Nai Non quoted the former Police Chief as stating that he left Thailand because he did not want to see a struggle between his followers and those of Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat. Pol. Gen. Phao will soon be joined by his wife, Madame Udomlaks Sriyanond, it was reported.

According to Nai Non, Pol. Gen. Phao will take up some study courses during his stay abroad.

THAI YARNYON CO. TO BRING SUIT AGAINST POL.  
GEN. PHAO (Thairaiwan)

It was learned that Nai Charoen Ruangvises proprietor and managing director of the Thai Yarnyon Co. will bring a suit against Pol. Gen. Phao Sriyanond for payment of over Baht 1 million debt due for jeeps purchased by the General for distribution to assemblymen members of the Seri-Manangasila Party.

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# THE MERCANTILE SECRETARIAL SERVICE NEWS SYNOPSIS

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Vol. XI - Friday 27th September 1957 - No. 29216

## RICE EXPORTS TO PHILIPPINES (Tradeneews)

Luang Thawil Sreshpanichakarn, Economic Affairs Under-secretary, told our reporter that arrangements have been made between the Philippine government representatives and local merchants for supply of 6'300 tons rice to the Philippines. He expected that another rice tender will be issued by the Philippines for delivery not later than October 15.

## PREMIER ORDERS ME SURES FOR LOWERING COST OF LIVING (Siannikorn)

At yesterday Government House press conference, the Premier stated that the press plays a very important role in democracy, serving as a link between the executive, legislature and the people. His government, he stated, will accept press opinions for consideration in studying administrative measures for promoting public welfare.

On the question of amending the Electoral Act, Lt. Gen. Prabhas Charusathien, Interior Minister, stated that the matter is under study. He assured that the government, having no political party affiliations, will not make amendments favouring any parties in particular, as feared by some quarters.

Regarding plans for easing the high living cost situation and the rural development programme, the Premier explained that the matter will be attended to by the Finance Ministry. Dr. Sern Vinitchaikul, after his return from the United States, will take over the Finance portfolio, he said. The living cost problem is confronting not only Thailand but also other countries. Plans for development of rural areas and increased food

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production will require large expenditures for successful execution.

Replying to a question, the Premier stated that details concerning SEA Supply operations in our country are not yet available. However, he admitted that SEA Supply aid to our country is given clandestinely. There is no truth in the report that the SEA Supply chief in Washington is being paid a salary by the Thai Government, he declared.

Asked whether there will be a change in San Phra holiday, the Premier stated that this question can be decided only after sounding the views of all quarters concerned.

Regarding proposals made by university students for improvement of national education and for a change to an independent policy, the Premier said that clarification will be made to the students by the Public Relation Department and the Education Ministry. On the suggestion that university students be permitted to assist in the forthcoming general elections, he said this question will be studied by the Interior Ministry.

According to Lt. Gen. Prabhas Charu-sathien, the Military Command Headquarters have received from good-intentioned citizens views suggesting improvements for the country as well as details concerning crime cases. As a Government of the people, public opinion will be listened to by the Administration if it emanates from a majority of the population.

When the Premier talked of the possibility of some local dailies being backed by vested interests, the atmosphere became strained. Many newspaper representatives asked whether the Premier meant there were some dailies being employed by interests outside the country to start instigations. The Premier parried, stating that he would not say whether there were any such dailies, but if there were, steps would have to be taken against them.

Before concluding the conference, the Premier denied the report that somebody had been given a commission in connection with the Yankee project loan. He explained that criticisms against the project may have arisen from the fact that the last government had not released full details to the public about it. Actually, the interest on the loan is in line with the ruling world money market rates, he assured.



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PRE-COUP PASSPORTS HAVE TO BE CONFIRMED BY  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTRY (Thairaiwan)

Foreign Affairs Ministry sources stated that the Ministry has advised all immigration authorities including those at Don Muang airport not to accept pre-coup passports of persons travelling out of the country, unless confirmations have been given by the Ministry.

Following the above instructions, over a hundred applicants flocked to the Foreign Affairs Ministry on September 24 to get the necessary confirmations. Most of them had to postpone their air journey from Don Muang the previous day, due to the regulations.

ROYAL ANTHEM NOW BROADCAST BY THAI TELEVISION CO.  
(Thairaiwan)

Starting from the evening of September 25, the royal anthem is broadcast by the Thai Television Co. at the conclusion of their programmes.

At yesterday's Government House press conference, newsmen noticed a change in their surroundings. All the portraits of the former premier and Lady La-lead Fibulsonggram have been taken down. For the first time yesterday, the portraits of Their Majesties the King and Queen were noticed in the Government House.

MEETING OF POLICE PARATROOPS SCHEDULED FOR  
NEXT MONTH (Siannikorn)

Detachments of the "Panther" and "Wolf" Units of police paratroops in Hua Hin, Songkhla and Chiangmai were sent for forest warfare exercises prior to the Sept. 16 coup. The Military Command Headquarters has now instructed Pol. Brig. Gen. Pard Tungasait, commander of police paratroops in the above areas to contact the detachments. All the personnel are required to report themselves not later than October 1. It was learned that the police paratroops will be given new assignments by the Military Command Headquarters.

SAHABHUM PARTY MAKING CAMPAIGN PLANS (Siannikorn)

The Sahabhun Party are getting numerous applications for membership, it was disclosed by Nai Ari Tantivejjakul, spokesman of the party yesterday morning.

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Former assemblymen who are party members will be campaigning for re-election in various changvads, including Supanburi, he said. At present the party has already decided on candidates to stand for election in all provinces, excepting some 10 changvads, including Prachin, Nan and Ranong. Campaign plans will be studied at a party meeting on September 26, 2 p.m., it was stated.

In a separate interview on the same day, Nai B. Bunkhun Chandarisuriyawongse, sec.-gen., Free Democratic Party, denied the report that his party is being dissolved. Our party still has 9 former assemblymen, he pointed out.

#### INTERIOR MINISTRY MAKING PREPARATIONS FOR GENERAL ELECTIONS (Siamnikarn)

The Interior Ministry has instructed all changvad administrative boards to make preparations for holding general elections, it was disclosed by Nai Chalaw Wanaput, Bangkok Governor, yesterday morning. As for the capital, he stated that lists of eligible voters are being made and about 100 copies will be distributed to newspaper offices. The lists will be posted up at an early date, so that inclusion of voters' names missing from the lists may be made conveniently on application.

Nai Chalaw opined that the general elections should be held not later than December 15. He said he favours the proposal that election districts be designated for better control.

Rasdorn: There will be no changes in the Electoral Act, it was confirmed by Lt. Gen. Prabhas Charusathien, Interior Minister, at yesterday's Government House press conference.

#### FIELD MARSHAL SARIT'S NAME USED TO INFLUENCE COMMITTEE ELECTION (Naewthai)

An annual meeting will be held on September 27 to elect a committee for the Royal Turf Club. Meanwhile, certain members of the club are reported to have used the name of Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat, Military Commander of Bangkok, to solicit votes for some high military officers, including Lt. Gen. Surachit Charuseni and Lt. Gen. Chitti Navisathien, it was reported.

However, according to club members such tactics will not succeed as election will be made by secret ballot.

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POLICE COMMANDO UNIT MAY BE DISSOLVED (Naewthai)

Sources close to Military Group stated that the authorities contemplate dissolving the commando unit of the Sanyed Crime Suppression Division under the charge of Pol. Maj. Prasong Machinanon and Pol. Capt. Ithipol Kruayai. The unit is said to have weapons such as flame throwers, noiseless machine guns and other equipment not possessed by the armed services.

PRESSMEN MAY GO TO RED CHINA (Naewthai)

At yesterday's Government House press conference, the Premier stated that the government has no objection to newsmen going to Red China. However, he warned that, as our country has no diplomatic relations with the Red Chinese regime, the Thai Government will not be able to make any intervention should Thai newsmen be arrested during their visits.

Asked about import of cheap textbooks printed in Red China, the Premier remarked that these books are in the nature of propaganda, hence their cheap prices. On trade with the China mainland, he assured that with the exception of strategic goods, merchants may trade in any commodities with their contacts in Red China.

Concerning the Yanhee project, he said this will have to be carried out, as the government has signed guarantee for the World Bank loan. He stressed that much benefits will accrue to the nation from the project.

As for the Baht 200 million debt incurred by Thailand in connection with the Thai expeditionary force expenses in Korea, Lt. Gen. Chien Yanthai, Deputy Finance Minister, disclosed that the U.S. government has decided to cancel this debt.

YANHEE LEGISLATION SHOULD BE RESTUDIED (Siamrath)

Even though the Yanhee Electric Organisation bill has been enacted into law, the people are still left pretty much in the dark as to whether their welfare will be adversely affected by the project. The following points should be clarified by the government: 1) It was alleged that spurious rainfall statistics had been given to the World Bank. 2) In times of

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war, the Yankee dam might become very vulnerable to air attacks. 3) Power distribution lines through forest areas might be cut by thieves. 4) Flood hazards to northern provinces due to the dam keeping back water during the rainy season. 5) Clearance of forest areas necessitated by the project. 6) Possible graft in respect of constructions.

MILITARY COMMAND CHECKING INTO AIDS TO SERI-MANANGSILA PARTY MEMBERS (Kiattisakdi)

Recently the Bank of Asia, controlled by Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat, Military Commander of Bangkok, requested from the Seri-Man. Party the return of Manangasila Villa, the party headquarters.

We learn that the Military Command Headquarters is at present enquiring into aids given by the party to its members. Reports concerning gifts of cash and jeeps will be carefully studied to determine if state funds have been used. In the affirmative, the members will be ordered to return such gifts to the government.

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# THE MERCANTILE SECRETARIAL SERVICE

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Vol. XI - Saturday 28th. September 1957 - No. 29217

## MORE COUNTRIES RECOGNISE THAI GOVERNMENT (Siamrath)

Besides America, Britain, France and Australia, Nai Pote Sarasin, Premier stated in the evening of September 26 that Japan, Austria and Holland have also recognised his government. It is expected that the remaining nations numbering some 23 will soon give their recognition to the government. The Premier remarked that there are indications that Russia will do so in the near future.

## TWO POLITICAL PARTIES AGAINST AMENDING ELECTORAL ACT (Siamrath)

Members of the Democrat and Sahabhun Parties yesterday discussed the Interior Ministry's plans to amend certain provisions of the Electoral Act, including educational qualifications of election candidates and their age. Views were expressed that no amendments should be made as the existing provisions are already adequate for election of well qualified people's representatives. It was suggested that amendments as proposed by the Interior Ministry might curtail the electorate's right in election.

Meanwhile, the Interior Ministry is drafting amendments to the Electoral Act. According to Nai Thavi Raengkhan, Deputy Interior Minister, proposed amendments will soon be submitted to Lt. Gen. Prabhas Charusathien, Interior Minister, for decision. Nai Thavi stated in an interview on September 27 that shortcomings found at the February 26 general elections are being studied in connection with the proposed amendments. Loopholes allowing officials to aid election candidates are being plugged. It was stated that provisions may be included to permit assistance of university students in elections. Nai Thavi declared that the amendments are solely aimed at

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ensuring clean elections in future.

On the views that the age of candidates should be 30 or over, he explained that according to statistics on the last elections, only 2 candidates under 30 years of age and 11 candidates with an education of less than Mathayon 6 were elected to the National Assembly last February. These figures therefore show that age and educational qualifications in the Electoral Act are no major points militating against justice, as the electorate can be depended upon to choose the best possible candidates for their representatives, if balloting can be conducted in all fairness.

Nai Thavi stressed that for the coming general elections, candidacy of officials can be permitted only if they have resigned from government service 6 months prior to the election date.

#### NEW ECONOMIC AFFAIRS MINISTER EXPLAINS POLICY (Siamrath)

Nai Sukit Niamanhemin, Economic Affairs Minister, told a press conference on Sept. 26 that his Ministry permits free trade with Red China. Merchants may trade in all commodities with the exception of strategic goods, he said.

He declared that he does not expect any great difficulty in his post, which is to last only 90 days in a care-taker government. He will simply have to see to the smooth functioning of administrative affairs of his Ministry, without entering into any commitments which may embarrass the next government to be formed after the general elections. Due to lack of diplomatic relations with Communist China, merchants trading with that country will have to arrange finance by themselves as the Ministry cannot assist them with facilities in this sphere, it was explained.

#### DEP. FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER ON LADY LA-IAD, RETURN OF PRINCE WAN, ETC. (Siamrath)

After their arrival in Saigon, Lady La-iad Fibulsanggrun, Wang Chiravas Punyarachune and Group Capt. Thinakorn Pankravi continued their journey to Phnompenh, it was stated by Nai Visut Athayuk, Dep. Foreign Affairs Minister, on the morning of September 27. Asked about H.R.H. Prince Wan Waidhayakorn, Foreign Affairs Minister, now abroad, he said no definite date of the Prince's return has been communicated to him yet. It was explained that the Prince has been assigned by the United Nations to enquire into the Hungary issue.

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According to routine, policies of the new government have already been submitted to diplomatic representations in Thailand together with a list of the Cabinet members.

On the report by "The Nation" daily news published in Burma about Nai Sanguan Tularaks and the Thai autonomous state in South China, he disclosed that his Ministry is taking much interest in the matter. Instructions have been sent to Thai diplomatic representatives in Burma to make investigation and submit a full report on findings to the Ministry, it was stated.

#### NAI KHUANG GOING ALL OUT FOR POLITICS (Siamrath)

In his all out fight for Thailand attainment of genuine democracy, Nai Khuang Paivangse, leader of the Democrat Party, is said to have been involved in financial difficulties. To tide over them, he had to sell his residence at Baht 2 million. The sales contract was signed on Sept. 26, it was reported.

In an interview last Thursday, he told newsmen that as leader of a political party he had to meet much expenses. To pay a pressing debt of Baht 300,000 he therefore decided on selling his residence in front of the National Stadium. The purchaser is allowing him to stay on until he has built a new house, it was explained.

Asked concerning the forthcoming general elections, Nai Khuang declared that candidates are being selected by his party to run for election. In making its choices the party has to consider whether the following qualifications are met: 1) Good education 2) Meritorious services to the nation in the past 3) Integrity and irreproachable reputation.

For contesting elections in Bangkok, he has already fixed upon the following team to be led by himself: Luang Supachalasai, Rear Adm. Chalit Kulkanthan, Commander Phra Prayuth Chulathi, Maj. Luang Sorasithayanukarn, Luang Angkananuraks, Lieut. Thavil Rawangbhai, Luang Sirisalipit, Nai Pong-on Sirithorn. The team for Chiangmai Thamburi is to comprise Rear Adm. Thanorn Kachiran, Nai Thangai Suvarnathat. The campaigns on behalf of the party candidates will be launched soon, he said.

Speaking of the forthcoming general elections, he opined that with Nai Pote Sarasin and Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat at the helm, clean elections can be ensured.

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FIELD MARSHAL SARIT: FIRST USE OF HIS NAME  
FOR ELECTION CAMPAIGNS (Kiattisakdi)

Even though Nai Sukit Nimanhemin, leader of the Sahabhun Party and Nai Sanguan Chandarasakha, secretary-general, have participated in the new government, Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat has decided against supporting this party in elections. Sources close to him stated that the Field Marshal has forbidden the Sahabhun Party using his name in the party election campaigns.

OVER-CONFIDENCE RESPONSIBLE FOR MARSHAL PIBUL'S  
DOWNFALL (Kiattisakdi)

Former Premier Piuls nggram was sent scurrying from Thailand the night of Sept. 16 when the army launched its coup, simply because he was over-confident of his capability to keep the situation well in hand, sources close to him stated. He was reported to have been warned about the brewing coup by his associates two days before it broke out, but he continued to sit tight. He kept repeating: "I can prevent its outbreak". Since the high military officers submitted their demand for the government to resign in the morning of Sept. 14, the Premier had been kept overnight at the Government House. He was reported to have asked his secretary, Nai Chai Virajiri, whether he felt greatly concerned over the demand of the officers. Nai Chai told him he reposed implicit confidence in his ability to have the situation well in hand. The former premier sent a telegram to Lady La-lad Piuls nggram, then attending the conference of the Federation of United Nations Associations, that there was no need for her to postpone her return to Thailand, despite rumors about a brewing coup.

'SINGLEE' ACTIVITY OF FORMER ASSEMBLYMAN (Kiattisakdi)

Before dissolution of the National Assembly the former assemblyman was able to line his nest with Baht 50,000 which he obtained through sale of firearms licenses given him. It was reported that he received a total of 100 licenses which he was able to sell at Baht 500 each.



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NAI PRIDI'S SON TO RUN FOR ELECTION (Sathierabarb)

It was learned that Nai Parn Pananyong, eldest son of Nai Pridi Pananyong, former premier, will stand for election to the National Assembly in Changwat Ayuthia in co-operation with Nai Yuen Panichavit, a minister in the Thairong Cabinet. Nai Parn Pananyong, along with others, was previously involved in the so-called Communist conspiracy case.

PURGE STARTING IN CENTRAL INFORMATION DEPT. (Phitchai)

Maj. Gen. Rasmi Rachaniwat, the new Director-General, Central Information Department, has reportedly started enquiring into alleged irregularities of the staff of his department. Chiefs of divisions and sections were questioned by him concerning their service records, patrons, private incomes and duties. As a result of his investigations, two suspicious officials have been dismissed from government service.

It was learned that P. Lt. Col. Chulit Praniprachachon, Marshal Pibul's son-in-law, failed to pass some examination papers set by the Director-General. Without waiting to hear an official announcement of the result, the police officer left the department with all his belongings.

POLICE CHIEF ON PANTHER POLICE BATTALION (Phinchai)

Gen. Sawai Sawaisaenyakorn, Police Director-General, told our reporter yesterday that he had met with a former member of the police "Panther" battalion. According to recent rumors, the battalion during the coup held a rally in a deep forest to plan a counter-coup.

Replying to our reporter, the Police Chief admitted that some staff members of the SEA Supply Corps had trained the personnel of the battalion in guerrilla warfare. This assistance was given by the Corps under a private arrangement made with P. Lt. Gen. Phao Sriyanond. The matter was treated as top secret and even the former Deputy Chief was not given detailed information about it. The General disclosed that the battalion had its headquarters in a jungle which would take four days' travelling on foot to reach. P. Lt. Brig. Gen. Chat Nunbhakdi has been ordered by the P. Lt. Dept. to make on-the-spot investigations concerning the battalion, he stated.

THE MERCANTILE SECRETARIAL SERVICE 15427

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Vol. XI - Monday 30th September 1957 - No. 29218

## FORMER ASSEMBLYMAN RECOMMENDS AMENDING CONSTITUTION (Siam Nikorn)

Nai Tim Bhuripat, former assemblyman for Ubol, stated at the Sahabhum Party headquarters on September 27 that the constitution should be amended to prevent ambiguity in certain provisions, including the number of first category assemblymen to be elected to the National Assembly within 90 days. He expressed belief that after the general elections cases might be filed for nullification of elections, if amendments were not made in the constitution to fix the total number of first category assemblymen. Phya Athakari Nibhon, Justice Minister also shares his view, Nai Tim declared.

He related that when meeting Pol. Gen. Phao Sriyanond in Geneva on September 21, he was told by the General that the last government had practically spent all the available budget and the present administration would therefore be in financial difficulty. Pol. Gen. Phao suspected Field Marshal Phin Chunhawan, his farther-in-law, of siding with Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat because during the immediate pre-coup days Marshal Phin took a fortnight's leave of absence, Nai Tim reported. The general was quoted as stating that he was no longer interested in the fate of the Seri-Manangasila Party whose members could join any other party they liked.

It was learned that Khun Ying Udomlaks Sriyanond, Pol. Gen. Phao's wife, is scheduled to travel out to join her husband in Switzerland on September 30 after putting the family affairs in order. However, there is a possibility of her postponing departure indefinitely to the sudden illness of Field Marshal Phin Chunhawan.

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FIVE EX-MINISTERS WANT TO SET UP PARTY FOR SUPPORT  
OF FIELD MARSHAL SARIT (Siam Nikorn)

Five ministers in the last government have reportedly written to Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat, volunteering to set up a political party with former members of the Seri-Manangasila Party for giving secret support to the Field Marshal. However, in his reply, Field Marshal Sarit said that he could never approve such a move as previously made by Pol. Gen. Phao Sriyanond to deceive the people.

CIVIL HEADQUARTERS DISSOLVED (Siam Nikorn)

The Military Command has issued an order dissolving the civil headquarters located at Suan Kularb Palace, as conditions in the capital are now quiet and orderly. It was reported that since the evening of September 27 military guards have been withdrawn from various strategic centres to their previous installations. Guards are, however, maintained at the Military Command Headquarters and at the Army Conference Hall in front of Suan Kularb Palace.

APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARIES TO MINISTRIES (Siam Nikorn)

The Cabinet Council has approved appointment of Lt. Col. Chom Musikanond as secretary to the Education and Culture Minister and Khun Thayarn Rarnron as secretary to the Interior Minister. Nai Amorn Bunvichart and Nai Chamroon Piyamputra have been appointed assistant secretaries, Interior Ministry, it was reported.

INTERIOR MINISTER AGAINST AIDING SAHABHUM PARTY  
(2500 Rai Wan)

It may be recalled that in 1946 Col. Thuan Vichaikattaka, Assistant Interior Minister, has written to Changvad Governors to help election candidates of parties supporting the government then headed by Nai Pridi Panomyong.

It was learned that the Sahabhumi Party has drafted a similar order to get support of Changvad Governors. Informants stated that when the order was submitted to the Interior Minister, he refused to sign it, but promised to consult with Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat on the matter.

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Another source stated that the Sahabhum Party is distributing Baht 50,000 to every election candidate running under its banner. Plans have also been drawn up to obtain assistance from certain ministers in election campaigns, it was reported.

RETURN OF COL ANANT PIBULSONGGRAM (2500 Rai Wan)

Upon his return by Thai Airways Co. plane, on September 28 at 6.30 p.m. Col. Anant Pibulsonggram who had returned from a meeting with his father, Field Marshal Pibulsonggram, was taken to meet Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat at the Army Conference Hall without stopping to meet the press.

TAC CANNOT RESELL AIRCRAFT ON ORDER WITH LOCKHEED CO. (Kiattisakdi)

For certain reasons, the last government gave approval to resell three planes on order with the Lockheed Co., U.S.A., on behalf of the Thai Airways Co. According to the Cabinet Council's resolution at the time, the Foreign Affairs Ministry, the Communications Ministry and the Finance Ministry were to study the resale procedure in co-operation with the Thai Airways Co.

However, so far the authorities have not been able to arrange resale of the aircraft because of a secret undertaking made by Nai Pote Sarasin, then Thai Ambassador to Washington, with Mr. John Foster Dulles, U.S. Secretary of State. The undertaking to the effect that the planes were intended for use in the airline services of the Thai Airways Co., and not for resale purposes. However, after being in service with the Thai Airways Co., for a certain time, the aircraft could be resold, it was stipulated.

NORTH-EASTERN MIGRANTS BEING ADVISED TO RETURN TO HOMECHANGVADS (Kiattisakdi)

Following advices from governors of changvads in the North-eastern region, the committee aiding North-eastern migrants have issued a notice recommending that they should return to their home changvads, as there are now more employment opportunities provided for them. Projects connected with highways, irrigation, canal dredging, reservoirs, mining, etc. are providing such opportunities, it was

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stated. In the recent past large numbers of people in the North-east have migrated to the capital to seek employment because of famine in their home changvads consequent upon an unprecedented drought.

CABINET COUNCIL DECIDES TO AMEND ELECTORAL ACT  
(Sarn Seri)

After mulling it over, the Cabinet Council has decided to amend the Electoral Act to provide for designation of election districts for better control. Proposals regarding raising of candidates' qualifications, including age and education, were turned down by the Cabinet Council. A bill for amending the Electoral Act is scheduled to be submitted to the National Assembly on October 3, it was reported.

At a Cabinet Council meeting on September 28, Lt. Gen. Prabhas Charusathien, Interior Minister, assured that every precaution would be taken to ensure clean and fair elections. To save on expenses, the meeting decided to use the ballot boxes in service during the last general elections. It was stated that as much as Baht 2 million would be incurred to make new ballot boxes.

SERI-MANANGASILA PARTY MEMBERS REFUSE TO RETURN  
JEEPS (Siam Radh)

With the departure of its leader and secretary-general, the Seri-Manangasila Party has now automatically been dissolved.

It was learned on September 28 that the government has served members with a notice to return jeeps given them by the party, alleging the last government used secret service funds for purchase of the vehicles. However, the members are refusing to return the jeeps on the grounds that the vehicles have been given them to facilitate visits to their constituencies.

Informants stated that in case eventually the members had to return the jeeps, their campaigns for re-election to the National Assembly would be adversely affected.

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NARESUAN CAMP COMMANDANT EXPLAINS ABOUT POLICE PARATROOPS (Khao Farb)

Last Friday evening our representative had an interview with Pol. Lt. Col. Nakorn Srivanit, commander of the police Naresuan Camp, Hua Hin. The latter stated that there are only 368 paratroops in his camp and that the rumours about its manpower numbering by thousands were groundless.

Pol. Lt. Col. Nakorn stressed that the paratroops under his command were under the jurisdiction of the Police Department and not controlled by the SEA SUPPLY CORPN. The Corporation only supplied weapons to the camp and gave training to its personnel. As many parts of our country are forest terrains, paratroops are a necessity for crime suppression, he explained, adding that his paratroops have nothing to do with the frontier police force numbering about 4,000 strong.

He related that following the radio announcement that the Military Group had overthrown the last government, he immediately ordered his men to stay in camp and to make no movements without his instructions. When a military contingent led by Lt. Col. Lopchai arrived in order to disarm the police paratroops in the evening of September 18, the coup situation was explained to the camp inmates and there were no incidents during the disarming process.

It took 33 trucks to transport away weapons of the camp, including bazookas, Madsen machine guns and bombs. These arms are no better than those possessed by the military, he assured.

The following morning our representative was given an interview by Pol. Maj. James William Lair, trainer of the Naresuan Camp. According to him, the contract between the SEA Supply Corpn. and the Police Department was signed in Bangkok in 1950. The Corporation is private-owned and has no connection with the U.S. War Department in any way, he declared. The contract is for supplying arms and training to the Thai police and the instructors sent by the Corporation are not enjoying diplomatic immunity, he said.

Following the September 16 coup, he called on Field Marshal Sarit who was satisfied with his account of the SEA Supply Corpn.'s work in Thailand.

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On September 28 at 9 a.m. Pol. Brig. Gen. Chat Nunbhakdi and Pol. Brig. Gen. Pard Tunkasmit sent by the Police Chief arrived at Naresuan Camp. In a meeting attended by all the police paratroops the two officers assured that the Police Chief will follow the policies laid down by the Interior Ministry and that there will be no dissolution of any police units. The meeting lasted about half an hour.

SENGLEE ACTIVITY IN RICE EXPORT LICENSES (Naew Na)

Merchants had to pay nearly Baht 10 million to influential politicians prior to the September 16 coup in order to be permitted to export some 80,000 tons rice, it was reported. Informants stated that certain merchants close to the Soi Rajkru group of politicians are to be arrested for investigation.

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# THE MERCANTILE SECRETARIAL SERVICE

# NEWS SYNOPSIS

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Office: 589 New Road, Near Broadway. Cinema, Bangkok, Thailand. Tel: 20106

Vol. XII - Tuesday 1st October 1957 - No. 29219

## MORE RICE TO BE PERMITTED FOR EXPORT (Prachatipatai)

It appears from an Economic Affairs Ministry's survey that there is still adequate rice surplus so that more rice exports will not affect the reserves for domestic consumption. Previously, the Ministry cut the rice export quotas down to 30% resulting in merchants being unable to fill rice orders from abroad in full. In view of the survey results, the authorities are at present considering raising the rice export quotas.

Due to higher demand for pork in Hongkong, it was learned that a 7,000 ton vessel fitted with cold storage is being chartered by Hongkong merchants for import of pork. The merchants' application for purchase of pork from Thailand is being studied by the Economic Affairs Ministry, it was stated.

## GUNNY BAG FACTORY IN TROUBLE (Prachatipatai)

The gunny bag factory in Tambol Bangkrasaw, Changvad Nondhaburi has advised its workers numbering about 1,000 that in case the factory cannot get over the shortage of hemp for use as raw material soon, it will have to close down or operate on a part time basis. Other gunny bag factories are also having its operations hampered by the hemp shortage, it was reported.

## NO MORE WAN PHRA HOLIDAYS (Prachatipatai)

Following a Cabinet Council meeting yesterday morning, Lt. Gen. Thanom Kittikachorn, Defence Minister, told newsmen that the meeting decided to revert to the week-end holiday of half-day on Saturdays and full-day on Sundays, instead of the holiday on Wan Phra (holy day) and on Sundays.



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He also disclosed that martial law will be lifted to-day in all parts of the country, except for the first military region including Bangkok and Thonburi.

NEW DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF COMPTROLLER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT APPOINTED (Prachatipatai)

Nai Boonma Wongsawan, special grade official and financial expert, has been appointed by royal command Director-General of the Comptroller-General's Department.

IMPROVEMENTS OF PUBLIC WELFARE STUDIED (Prachatipatai)

The Interior Ministry is reported as giving priority to studying improvements for water and power facilities in order to remove the hardships of the people concerning them. Ways and means will be explored to plug up loopholes causing irregularities in the public utilities.

On the other hand, the Finance Ministry is reviewing various taxes. Those considered unjust to society will be abolished whilst others will be reduced. In making tax improvements, the authorities will work on the principle of the people's ability to make tax payments.

The Premier's Office will be re-organized for more efficiency in administering the country.

Under the principle that the police have to serve the people, large scale improvements will be made in the police service. The Crime Suppression Squad will come in for drastic reorganization as in the past this body has caused much apprehension to the public.

Some police divisions, including the educational and technical divisions, will be transferred to the Police Secretariat in order to have more personnel for crime suppression. The staff of the Police Intelligence Unit will be retrenched. Much of the contents of the police armory will be transferred to the Military Arsenal.

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FORMER SERI-MANANGASILA PARTY MEMBERS SEEK FIELD  
MARSHAL SARIT'S AID (Prachatipatai)

Some thirty members of the Seri-Manangasila Party including former Ministers have approached Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat for an aid grant of Baht 3 million in order to set up a political party to support the government. However, the Field Marshal reportedly said that the money could be paid to them only on condition that they would run for election to the National Assembly next year when there would be by-elections to fill some vacancies. Meanwhile, they would have to help the Sahabhum Party in its campaigns for elections in December this year. It is not known whether the thirty ex-members of the Seri-Manangasila Party have accepted the Field Marshal's proposal.

Informants stated that, following the dissolution of the Seri-Manangasila Party, members of the party tried to join the Sahabhum (Unionist) Party, but their applications were rejected.

POLITICAL PARTIES AGAINST DIVISION OF COUNTRY  
INTO ELECTION DISTRICTS (Prachatipatai)

Yesterday a Cabinet Council meeting studied proposed amendments to the Electoral Act including division of the country into election districts at each of which voters can cast their ballots for only one candidate. Hitherto, voters could vote for the full number of people's representatives to which each changvad is entitled.

In an interview, Nai Liang Chayakarn, former Deputy Justice Minister, opined that such a division would be inadvisable because it would open the way for naklengs and financiers to exert their efforts with maximum results in support of their candidates running for election. It was noted that this view is also shared by all political parties.

Nai Liang pointed out that recently the Military Group declared that it would not propose any amendments to existing laws under the present National Assembly comprising only second category (appointed) members. It was explained that amendments should be made only when the National Assembly has two categories members, i.e. after the general elections.

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He related that when the proposal became known, numerous telephone enquiries were received by him. One and all expressed belief that the proposal was designed to keep out members of the Democrat Party led by Nai Khuang Apaiwongse, from the National Assembly. The enquirers speculated that without the amendment, Nai Khuang and his team would win the elections in Bangkok without much difficulty.

COMMENT ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ELECTORAL LAW  
(Prachatiptai)

The Pibul government was toppled chiefly because the Opposition parties were able to convince the people that the elections in February last were dirty. With the above conviction, the people naturally reasoned that a government getting into office through unfair means would never be able to look after public welfare satisfactorily. The dirty elections lent weight to the Opposition's charges that the last government administered the country only for the interests of its partisans.

From the above facts, it appears that what the people resented was not the Electoral Act but the unclean elections. The people would be very pleased to see the government officials engaging in rigging the last elections prosecuted according to the law. We think the present Administration could make better use of its time in studying this issue, than in mulling the question of amending the Electoral Act.

SURPRISING COINCIDENCE IN FIELD MARSHAL PIBUL'S  
LIFE (Prachatiptai)

Twelve years ago, on September 15 1945, Field Marshal Pibulsonggram was confined in a cell under charges of being a war criminal. After his acquittal, he said he had decided to wash his hands of politics. However, a few years after, he led a coup attempt which succeeded in toppling the Thamrong government. His resumption of premiership followed the ouster of Nai Khuang Apaiwongse and his government.

On September 16, 1957 the Military Group seized government power and the Field Marshal was sent scurrying out of the country.

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PUBLIC PROSECUTION DEPARTMENT'S VIEW ON CANDIDACY QUESTION (Siam Radh)

In response to the Interior Ministry's instructions, the Public Prosecution Department has studied the question whether government officials would not be barred from standing for election in December next, in view of the regulation that they are eligible as election candidates only if they have resigned from the government service 90 days prior to the election date.

The above Department has now submitted its view to the Interior Ministry that as the royal decree dissolving the National Assembly calls for new elections within 90 days, there is no necessity for officials to first resign from government service for as much as 90 days. It was pointed out that candidacy may be considered valid if government officials only resign one day prior to entering their names as candidates.

PIBUL NOT GOING TO AMERICA (Siam Radh)

Close relatives of Field Marshal Pibulsonggram, former premier, disclosed that he has given up his intention to proceed to America, in view of the high cost of living there and the uncertainty as to whether or not the U.S. government will accord him political asylum.

For a continued stay in Cambodia the former premier is at present finding a house to rent, it was reported.

EXCHANGE RATES FOR DUTY ASSESSMENT (M.S.S.)

The following exchange rates are to be used in assessing duty as from 1st October 1957.

Foreign exchange rates based on £ sterling free market rates according to Official Parity.

Value : Ticals for each of foreign unit.

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<u>Foreign Currencies</u>	<u>Ticals</u>
1. Pound Sterling .....	57.28
2. Indian Rupee .....	4.30
3. Malayan Dollar .....	6.68
4. Hongkong Dollar .....	3.58
5. Burmese Kyat .....	4.30
6. Indonesian Rupiah .....	1.80
7. Indochina Piastre .....	0.5845
8. Australian Pound .....	45.82
9. Belgian Franc .....	0.409
10. Danish Krone .....	2.97
11. Deutsche Mark .....	4.87
12. Dutch Guilder .....	5.39
13. French Franc .....	0.05845
14. Italian Lira .....	0.03275
15. Swedish Krona .....	3.96
16. Swiss Franc .....	4.77
17. Rouble .....	5.12
18. Norwegian Krone .....	2.87
19. U.S. Dollar .....	20.46
20. Canadian Dollar .....	20.71
21. Philippine Peso .....	10.23
22. Taiwan Taels .....	1.31
23. Yen .....	0.05685

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# THE MERCANTILE SECRETARIAL SERVICE NEWS SYNOPSIS

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Office: 589 New Road, Near Broadway. Cinema, Bangkok, Thailand. Tel: 20106

Vol. XII - Thursday 3rd October 1957 - No. 29221

## NEW ECONOMIC AFFAIRS MINISTER RECALLS RICE EXPORT LICENSES (Prachati-patai)

After taking over the Economic Affairs portfolio, Nai Sukit Nimmanhemmin learned that numerous licenses for export of 220,000 tons rice and import of 20,000 tons sugar had been issued by Gen. Boribhand Yuthakij, the former Economic Affairs Minister. The licenses were said to have been granted prior to the September 16 coup and ante-dated.

Nai Sukit has now instructed the Economic Affairs Under-secretary to recall all the licenses issued by the former Minister for reconsideration. It was learned some of the merchants returning the licenses confessed how they had secured the licenses.

## ECONOMIC AFFAIRS MINISTER EXPLAINS POLICIES TO HIGH OFFICIALS (Trade News)

On September 30 at 3.30 p.m. Nai Sukit Nimmanhemmin, Economic Affairs Minister, met with high officials of his Ministry to explain the government's policies on foreign and domestic trade. Attending the meeting were also the Economic Affairs Under-secretary and the Director-General of the various Departments.

After the meeting the Minister told newsmen of the necessity to clarify the country's trade policies. The purpose, he said, was to prevent costly blunders, to provide for greater facilities to merchants and to preclude shortcomings in the future.

THE MERCANTILE SECRETARIAL SERVICE  
 NEWS  
 It was learned that on October 1, the Economic Affairs Minister named a committee headed by Luang Thawil Sresphanichkarn, to make recommendations concerning administrative affairs. The committee is empowered to request reports from officials of the Ministry.

RICE PRODUCTION THIS YEAR (Trade News)

Nai Vibul Dharmabut, Agriculture Minister, told reporters on October 1 that according to survey reports received by his Ministry, rice production this year for the Central Plain region is more or less on the same level as last year's. The northern region enjoys a slight advantage over the north-eastern region in respect of rice production. It is estimated that the North-east will suffer 10-15% more damage to rice crop than for last year. So far reports on rice cultivation in the South have not yet come in, he stated.

In his view the country's rice output for 1958 will be about 10% less than last year's. He opined that if the rains keep on at the present rate, an improved rice yield may be expected.

MILITARY GROUP HOLDS SECRET MEETING (Siam Nikorn)

Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, held a secret meeting of key officers numbering some 23 in the afternoon of October 1. It was speculated that among the subjects discussed by the meeting were the situation of former premier P. Pibulsonggram, the lifting of martial law in outer provinces and the proposed reshuffle in administrative military and civil posts.

SECOND CATEGORY MEMBERS REJECT PRECINCT ELECTION PROPOSAL (Siam Radh)

In the afternoon of October 1, second category assemblymen who are members of the Military Group held a meeting at the Army Conference Hall on the proposal to amend the Electoral Act calling for precinct elections, instead of provincial elections as heretofore.

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Lt. Gen. Prabhas Charusathien explained to the meeting that the amendments would ensure better control over elections. Dissidents, however, aired the view that for conducting clean elections, the main point is not whether or not precinct elections are permitted. The decisive factors are the efficiency of the poll committees and how properly polling can be controlled. They also pointed out that according to public opinion as expressed by the press and other channels, major amendments should not be made to the Electoral Act, as at present the National Assembly only consists of appointed members.

The meeting finally decided to effect only one amendment concerning reuse of ballot boxes in service during the February 26 elections, as this would save some 1.8 million and as new and proper ballot boxes could not be made in time for the December general elections.

Yesterday, the Cabinet Council held a meeting on the proposed amendments to the electoral law, it was reported.

#### NAI LIANG SETTING UP NEW PARTY (Siam Radh)

With the Seri-Manangasila Party automatically dissolved, Nai Liang Jayakarn, former Deputy Justice Minister, is reported as gathering former members of the party with a view to forming a People's Party. He is being assisted in this task by Nai Swasdi Kamprakorb, former Deputy Public Health Minister.

It was learned that the People's Party will act as opposition, now that both the Sahabhum Party and the Democrat Party have apparently switched to support of the government. About 30 former members of the Seri-Manangasila Party were said to have rallied around Nai Liang Jayakarn. His party is expected to be registered with the Interior Ministry soon. Meanwhile, preparations are afoot to enter candidates in various changvads for election to the National Assembly.

#### HOW NEW GOVERNMENT IS ADMINISTERING COUNTRY (Chao Thai)

Last March when Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat was named in charge of the emergency situation, public views and opinions were submitted to him, in response to his invitation.



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The following points subsequently submitted by the Field Marshal to the last government as being the people's needs :

1. Solution of the high living cost problem.
2. Eradication of official corruption.
3. Ending of privilege grants and banning of private trade by officials.
4. Separation of political from permanent official posts as well as termination of the transitory provisions of the constitution.
5. Discontinuance of oppression by administrative officials.
6. Adoption of a neutralist policy.

At present a reshuffle in provincial administrative posts is under way to ensure clean general elections and to prevent further maltreatment of the people. There are yet no indications that points 3), 4) and 6) will soon be achieved.

During the first week following the September 16 coup, the Military Group was greatly welcome to the people. After establishment of the government the people's feeling has been veering away from the Administration. This development should be given close attention by the second category members of the National Assembly and the Military Group. Early steps should be taken to bring the people close to the government for effective co-operation in the national interests.

#### DAUGHTER OF FORMER MINISTER TO STAND FOR ELECTION (Chao Thai)

Nangsao Ornin Bhuripat, daughter of the late Nai Thong-in Bhuripat, one of the four ex-ministers who were shot to death at Bangkok following the November 8, 1947 coup, is planning to seek election to the National Assembly, it was reported.

Nangsao Ornin was educated in England and graduated from a home economics course.

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PENSION RAISES STUDIED (Chao Thai)

The Finance Ministry is studying the pending matter of giving pension raises to retired officials. It may be recalled that prior to the general elections of February 26, 1957, the last government raised the same subject for consideration but nothing came out of it after the elections.

MILITARY GROUP TO REVEAL REASONS BEHIND SEPTEMBER 16 COUP (Luk Muang)

Sources close to the Military Group stated that the reasons behind the September 16 coup will be published soon, in order to let the people judge for themselves whether or not the seizure of power from the last government was well justified.

Informants stated that the Military Group took only a short time to decide upon making a swift move against the Pibul Administration, following receipt of urgent information that plans were afoot to arrest and kill leaders of the Group from Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat downwards numbering in all 123 officers.

Whether or not former premier P. Pibulsonggram will be permitted to return is reportedly hinging on the conclusion of the Military Group concerning the former premier. If it is established that he had no part in the plot against the Group, he would be permitted to come back, it was reported.

COMMITTEE FOR OBSERVING BEHAVIOUR OF LAWYERS (Luk Muang)

The Bar Association on September 13 named a new committee for observing the behaviour of lawyers. The committee includes Phya Athakari Nipon, Luang Prakorb Nitisarn, Luang Prasert Manukij, M.R. Seni Pramote and Phra Pibul Isawarn.

LIFTING OF CONTROL OVER FOREIGN TRIPS (Sathienraparb)

Since September 21, merchants and members of the public intending to go abroad were obliged to have their passports issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs before that date restamped after approved by the Military authorities.

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It was learned that this regulation has now been lifted effective October 1. This shows that conditions are rapidly returning to normal.

SAHABHUM PARTY FORMING BANGKOK ELECTION TEAM  
(Kiattisakdi)

Although the Democrat Party has already drawn up its list of candidates to contest elections in the Bangkok area, the Sahabhum (Unionist) Party has not yet succeeded in so doing. It was learned that the latter party is planning to get personalities, including Rear Admiral Luang Thamrong Nawaswadi, Nai Direk Jayanam, Dr. Duan Bunnag and Nai Vilas Osathanon to run for election under its banner.

Informants stated that if the Sahabhum Party cannot form a good team to compete with the Democrat Party, it will not enter candidates in Bangkok.

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THE MERCANTILE SECRETARIAL SERVICE

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Office: 589 New Road, Near Broadway, Cinema, Bangkok, Thailand. Tel: 20106

Vol. XII - Wednesday 2nd October 1957 - No. 29220

## FORMER ASSEMBLYMEN AGAINST SEA SUPPLY CORPN. (Thai Rai Wan)

The Police Director-General is being requested by several former Assemblymen to take steps against the SEA Supply Corpn. without delay. Charges of revolt within and outside the country should be brought against the Corporation, it was stated.

Under the last government, the Corporation backed by the former Police Chief was alleged to have been engaging in underground work over a long period of time. During the coup night of September 16, personnel of the SEA Supply Corpn. hastily burned documents to prevent them from falling into the hands of the Military Group. It was reported that the personnel resisted the troops from carrying out their search, alleging diplomatic immunity.

After his assumption of office, Gen. Sawai Sawaisaenyakorn, Police Chief, learned that the Corporation is only a private body owned by Americans engaging in supply of the most modern weapons to bolster the power of Pol. Gen. Phao Sriyanond, chief of Asawin (knight) police, whose principle duty was to repress anti-American elements in Thailand.

The Police Chief told the press the other day that the Corporation has been aiding Pol. Gen. Phao Sriyanond personally and arms supplies have been made clandestinely under police protection without their having to pass through the customs in accordance with regulations.

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In the view of Nai Ari Tantivejkul, spokesman of the Sahabhum (Unionist) Party and his several former Assemblymen, the activities of the SEA Supply Corp. were against the law of Thailand. A petition is being prepared for submission to the Police Department to take action against the Corporation, Nai Ari disclosed.

Sarn Seri : The SEA Supply Corp. is an intelligence agency of the U.S.A. whose purpose is to aid the police activities under Pol. Gen. Phao Sriyanond. In America the last government had Gen. Donovan as its adviser and supplies received from the agency has all along been conducted clandestinely. With aids received from the Corporation Pol. Gen. Phao Sriyanond has been able to set up new police units including the marine police, the police paratroops and the armoured car police, well equipped with modern weapons. Although the fighting strength of the police service has been greatly boosted under Pol. Gen. Phao Sriyanond, the police efficiency in maintenance of peace and order for public welfare has much declined. Under the former police chief, the people looked upon police personnel more as enemies than as their friends.

This year the Police Department has received a budget of Baht 200 million, compared to only Baht 133 million for the Education Ministry and Baht 8 million for the Industry Ministry.

So long as the U.S.A. does not clarify its policy towards our country in connection with SEA Supply Corp., the Thai people can never get over the feeling that the Corporation has been undermining our country's integrity.

#### NAI THEP SOUNDS WARNING AGAINST AMERICA (Khao Parb)

At his Sreshsiri Road residence yesterday (September 30), Nai Thep Chotinuchit, leader of the Economist Party, stated that the plot by some Americans to assassinate Generalissimo Chiang Kai Shek is nothing extraordinary. He alleged that activities ostensibly made by America for the purpose of aiding underdeveloped countries are really designed to help itself. Any countries working against American interests will be dealt with by the United States as exemplified by the assassination plot against the Generalissimo, Nai Thep declared.

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Commenting on the present government, he intimated that much intrigue had been going on behind the appointment of Nai Pote Sarasin, former SEATO Secretary-General, as Premier. Thailand is no longer an independent country as it is being dominated by a certain power nation, he stressed.

Nai Thep described the activities of the SEA Supply Corp. as American interferences in the internal affairs of Thailand. Should personnel of SEA Supply Corp. be further tolerated in our country events as happened in Hungary, Iran and Guatemala would be unavoidable, he predicted. Such American activities are all calculated to split the Thai people into factions so that American interests may best be protected. The troubles being experienced by Serbia and Jordan are glaring examples of such activities, it was stated.

Nai Thep expressed astonishment as to why Radio Thailand's broadcast on the morning of September 30 contained an intimation which might be interpreted as an attack against India over the Cashmir issue. As Thailand has diplomatic relations with both India and Pakistan, it should rather have tried to mediate between the disputing countries, he opined.

On the Cabinet Council's decision approving the proposal to divide the country into election districts in which each voter could vote for only one candidate, Nai Thep said he was unable to understand why the government turned a deaf ear to all criticisms from all quarters over the decision. He said if there was no martial law, he would hold a Hyde Park rally to sound public opinion on the question.

The study of proposed amendments to the Electoral Act by the National Assembly will establish whether the members most of whom are high officers who have resigned as members of the Seri-Manangasila Party in pre-coup days, keep their promise to be impartial. The reaction of Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat as second category member concerning the Cabinet Council's decision has so far not been made known, but this will be when the proposed amendments are introduced to the National Assembly, it was stated.

#### JEEP SEIZED FROM FORMER ASSEMBLYMEN (Khao Parb)

Alleging it was government property, a jeep received by Nai Somsakdi Somboonsap, former Assemblyman for Rajburi, from the Seri-

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Manangasila Party, was taken away Pol. Lieut. Pramote Puchapan, Chief Inspector of the Potharam Police Station, it was reported. Informants stated that the former assemblyman offered no resistance.

HYDE PARK CHARGED WITH LESE MAJESTE (Khao Parb)

Nai Sanga Nuangniyom, nicknamed the "Red tusked elephant" has been charged by the public prosecution with lese majeste. The court was told by the public prosecution that on June 24, 1957, the defendant during a Hyde Park rally, made insulting insinuations against H.M. the King. Before a crowd of some 6-7,000 people, Nai Sanga was reported to have asked them to guess the identity of the assassinator of King Anandhamahidol. Nai Sanga, wearing a pair of spectacles, jumped up several times and reiterated that the assassinator was a man of no more than 30 years of age. This, together with his other gesticulations, gave the audience the impression that H.M. the King had slain his royal brother, it was alleged. The public prosecutor asked the court to punish the defendant under section 112 of the Penal Code. This section stipulates that any person insulting or threatening the king, the queen, the crown prince or the regent is to be punished with imprisonment not exceeding 7 years.

POLICE CHIEF ON SEA SUPPLY CORPN. PROMOTIONS FOR OFFICERS, ETC. (Khao Parb)

On September 30 at 10 a.m., Gen. Sawai Sawaisaenyakorn, Police Director-General, met with high police officers at the Police Department conference hall.

The Police Chief was reported to have told the meeting that salary raises and promotions are being considered by the Department for high police officers.

To newsmen the Police Director-General stated after the meeting investigations are being made into the activities of SEA Supply Corp.

He disclosed that numerous complaints have been received from members of the public against several police officers concerning alleged corruptions and malpractices, he said. He declined to disclose the identity of the officers involved, saying that revelation would prejudice investigations.

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On Pol. Col. Champol Lohachala, the police officer who accompanied former premier Field Marshal Pibulsonggram in his flight from Thailand during the coup night, the Police Chief stated that after hearing his report, he allowed the officer to go home. As the Colonel has been assigned to give protection to the former premier, he has done no wrong in travelling with Marshal Pibul, it was explained.

MEMBERS OF SAHABHUM PARTY HAVE DIVIDED OPINION  
OVER PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ELECTORAL LAW (Khao Farb)

Nai Sukit Nimanhemmin, leader of the Sahabhum (Unionist) Party and Economic Affairs Minister, stated on September 30 that the division of the country into electoral districts would preclude the possibility of candidates being elected by the people merely because their numbers are in close proximity to some favourite candidates.

However, Nai Pee Bunnark, a member of the Party, declared that the division would enable naklengs and capitalists to bully their way into the National Assembly.

To our reporter, Nai Ari Tantivejkul, spokesamm of the Sahabhum Party, opined that voting by district would be more in accordance with democratic principles.

FOUR EX-MINISTERS' SLAYING CASE MAY BE REVIVED  
(Thai Rai Wan)

Nang Nimmual Cholahumi, wife of Nai Thongplee Cholahumi, one of the four ex Ministers, who were shot to death in Bangkok district following the coup of November 8, 1947, stated that as all reports and evidence concerning the case are in police hands, it is up to the Police Department and the Public Prosecution Department to bring the matter up before the court. Relatives and families of the four ex-ministers would never be able to prosecute the case successfully by themselves, she opined.

In a separate interview, Nang Boonthan Udol, wife of Nai Thawil Udol, stated she endorsed the view of Nang Nimmual. She said she would like the new Police Chief to investigate the police who escorted her husband and other ex-ministers during that fateful night.



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She related that the ex-ministers after their death bore tell-tale marks of having been manhandled.

MADAME UDOMLAKS SRIYANOND HAS VISA DIFFICULTY  
(Sathienraparb)

Yesterday, relatives and friends who turned up at Don Muang to bid farewell to Madame Udomlaks Sriyanond were disappointed not to meet her at 12.25 p.m., the time fixed for her departure to Switzerland to join her husband, Pol. Gen. Phao Sriyanond.

It was learned later that she had to postpone her trip due to difficulty in obtaining visas to her passport.

PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT TO BROADCAST EXPLANATIONS  
ABOUT AMENDMENTS TO ELECTORAL LAW (Sathienraparb)

Yesterday Nai Chamnarn Yuvaboon, Director-General, Interior Department, consulted with the Director-General, Public Relations Department, on the advisability of broadcasting amendments to the Electoral Act.

It was learned that on October 3 from 20 to 23 hours, i.e. after the passage of the bill amending the Electoral Act, the explanations will be broadcast by Radio Thailand and the Thai Television Co. simultaneously.

INTERIOR MINISTER'S ASSURANCE ABOUT GENERAL ELECTIONS  
(Sathienraparb)

Lt. Gen. Prabhas Charusathien, Interior Minister, told newsmen yesterday morning that the forthcoming general elections will be absolutely clean. He said he would be ready to take action against hoodlums attempting to rig the elections.

Government officials are being instructed to vote for whichever candidates they prefer. No influence will be permitted to influence their choice of candidates, the Interior Minister assured.

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# THE MERCANTILE SECRETARIAL SERVICE

# NEWS SYNOPSIS

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The M.S.S. Only Translates Them And Neither Endorses The News Published Nor Vouches For Its Reliability.

Full Translation Can Be Supplied On Request.

Office: 589 New Road, Near Broadway. Cinema, Bangkok, Thailand. Tel: 20106

Vol. XII - Friday 4th October 1957 - No. 29222

## FORMER ECONOMIC AFFAIRS MINISTER DENIES RUMOUR (Chao Thai)

According to a Thai language daily, Nai Sukit Nimmanhemmin, Economic Affairs Minister, has found out that Gen. Phra Boribhand Yuthakij, former Economic Affairs Minister, issued import and export licenses covering 20,000 tons sugar and 120,000 tons rice after the outbreak of the September 16 coup.

In an interview with the latter, our representative was informed that he had not issued any ante-dated licenses to merchants as alleged by the above newspaper. The rumour might have started from the fact that the British Embassy requested rice quotas for Hongkong, Singapore, Penang, Sarawak and Borneo simultaneously. In support of his statement, he produced a copy of an enquiry dated September 13 addressed to the Economic Affairs Under-secretary, who replied on the following day that of the total quantity of 143,000 tons requested by the Embassy, only 120,000 tons could be allotted.

The General added that according to the regulations, the permits for exporting the above rice were signed by the Director-General, Foreign Trade Department.

Regarding the sugar imports, he explained that the last government had instructed the Sugar Industry Development Co. to buy all locally produced sugar and if supply is not able to meet demand the deficit was to be met by imports from abroad. In pursuance of this policy, the company has been importing partial shipments of 1-2,000 tons each and it will take some time before the full quota of 20,000 tons is filled, it was stated.

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Full evidence concerning the above matter may be inspected at the Foreign Trade Department, he said.

DISTRICT COURTS MAY BE ABOLISHED (Chao Thai)

Innumerable complaints have been received by the government against district courts. It was alleged that these courts, established by the last government, have not been operating in accordance with sound principles, because the police have been given the power to arrest suspects, interrogate them and file charges against them.

After studying the complaints, the Justice Minister is recommending to the Cabinet Council that the district court system be dropped and that normal court procedures be reinstated. Plans will also be launched for improving the efficiency of official investigators, it was reported.

SALARY RAISE FOR JUNIOR OFFICIALS MULLED (Chao Thai)

At a recent meeting of senior officials of the Interior Ministry, Lt. Gen. Prabhas Charusathien, Interior Minister, disclosed that in addition to studying the question of separating political from permanent service posts, he also thought of giving a general salary raise to junior officials, particularly those below the Amphur officer rank and police sub-lieutenant rank. This is the only way to suppress official corruption, he opined.

Regarding plans for development of the country, he said the last government had drawn up very good plans for promoting the people's welfare and livelihood. The plans will be launched as soon as possible, it was stated.

FORMER SERI-MANANGASILA PARTY MEMBERS DENY PRESS REPORTS (Chao Thai)

According to press reports a few days ago, some 30 former members of the Seri-Manangasila Party had approached Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat with an offer to set up a new political party for supporting him secretly, provided the Field Marshal would grant the party a subsidy of Baht 3 million.

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Yesterday morning, Nai Chong Promvira, former assemblyman for Ranong, and Nai Prasert Boonsom, former assemblyman for Ayuthia, told a press conference there was no truth in the reports.

They revealed that a group of former Seri-Manangasila Party including themselves will act as opposition to the present government.

FIELD MARSHAL SARIT RECEIVES A LETTER FROM FORMER PREMIER (Chao Thai)

Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat had not been confined to his bed as reported by some papers. Yesterday, fallen ill and the Field Marshal attended a National Assembly meeting as usual. To reporters waiting for him, he said that according to the latest letter received from former premier P. Pibulsonggram, the latter would be glad to return to Thailand. If permitted to do so, he would refrain from creating any political trouble, well realizing that he is now advanced in age, Marshal Pibul was quoted to have stated in his letter.

Replying to a reporter's question, Field Marshal Sarit declared that according to news received by him, the former premier would eventually proceed to America. In the view of the Military Group, the former premier should not return at this juncture, as this might cause trouble on both sides. However, from the legal point of view, Field Marshal Pibulsonggram, as a Thai national, may return to his home country any time he wants, it was explained.

Asked if the former premier would not be arrested in event of his return, Field Marshal Sarit stated that in case there were charges against Field Marshal Pibul, he might be arrested by police.

Concerning the criticisms against Nai Pote Sarasin, premier, Field Marshal Sarit stressed that the former is a very good man and there is no truth in the allegation that he is following in the footsteps of the United States. As a Thai patriot, Nai Pote can be counted upon to place our country's interests before all else, it was pointed out.

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Regarding the question of lifting martial law, he explained that he is sounding the views of the military authorities. Martial law may be lifted in the outer provinces first, as done in the withdrawal of forces from strategic points in the capital, he declared.

#### PRESSURE FOR NEUTRALIST FOREIGN POLICY (Chao Thai)

Both the public and the press concur in clamouring for our country to adopt a neutralist foreign policy, alleging that this is the only judicious way to promote national interests. However, like the Pibul government the present Administration has announced its adherence to the West. The reasons advanced for this pro-West policy is that it is a prerequisite to getting substantial foreign aids, particularly those from America.

The disadvantages from seeking aids from the western camp only are many. According to an editorial published recently by the 'New York Times', America's aid to foreign nations is in reality no better than a form of investment for profit making. The inference is that in combatting against the menace of communism, the Americans want other peoples to die for them as much as possible.

The above newspaper also predicted that the Thai general elections to be held in December will result in a veering round to a neutralist foreign policy.

#### BURGLARY AT BANGKOK DOCK (Chao Thai)

On October 2 at 4 p.m. Nai Swasdi Suthisith, an official of the Bangkok Dock Ltd. made a report to the Yanawa police station that during the night of October 1, some burglars broke into the Dock premises and took away 5 typewriters and two table electric fans valued at Baht 26,680. The above Dock is being operated by the Navy.

#### UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TO SUPERVISE ELECTIONS (Siam Radh)

Nai Chammarn Yuvaboon, Director-General, Interior Department, told a press conference the other day that preparations have been made for holding the general elections in Bangkok and Thonburi.

He added that selections will be made from government officials and university students for appointment as supervisors at polling booths. Before the elections, training courses will be conducted for them.

Regarding the question of hooligans who harassed voters during the last general elections, the Director-General stated that both civil and military police will be stationed at every poll to maintain peace and order. The Department is printing color postcards for mailing to all eligible voters urging them to exercise their voting right. At every poll, more cubicles will be installed to facilitate voting, he said.

CHINESE SECRET SOCIETY AGENTS SENT TO THAILAND  
(Sarn Seri)

For political purposes, Chinese secret society agents were reported to have been sent urgently to Thailand by Nationalist Chinese interests. This move was allegedly dictated by a power nation in order to prevent Thailand from veering round to a neutralist foreign policy. The agents have been ordered to work up disturbances in Thailand according to the pattern of those previously taking place in Hongkong and Kowloon.

Informants stated that about 10 insurgents have already arrived in Bangkok from Hongkong. They are staying in hide-outs provided for by prominent merchants who are reportedly close to the Nationalist Chinese Embassy.

It was feared that disturbances might be started by the secret agents on the Double Ten Chinese National Day. Chinese residents refusing to fly the Chinese Nationalist flag on that day might be harassed to touch off public unrest and misunderstanding with the Thai government.

To combat this menace, the authorities are already taking precautions, it was reported.

YANHEE ACT DISCUSSED BY CABINET COUNCIL (Sarn Seri)

Government House sources reported that at a recent meeting the Cabinet Council discussed the Yanhee Electric Organization Act. Informants stated that some ministers recommended abrogation of the Act. Finally, however, the meeting decided to allow this legislation to stand, not wishing to see international repercussions arising from the government acting on the recommendation.

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Speaking of the discussions, one Minister told our reporter that the government had decided to impose strict control over the Yankee dam construction to prevent graft.

BACKGROUND TO DISCONTINUANCE OF MINING CONCESSION IN NORTH (Thai Rai Wan)

The big shots in the Mines Department have reportedly given notice for cancellation of a mining concession in Tambol Baw Kaew, Branch Amphur Samerng, Changvad Chiengrai. Officials of the Mines Organization alleged having received a report from the Police Department that there had been illicit mining in the above district prior to receipt of the concession from the Department.

However, we learned that actually the cancellation cropped up as a result of the concessionaires refusing to pay Baht 500,000 or give free shares to the big shots. Such fleecing tactics has in the past led to dismissal of many senior officials of the Mines Department following investigations into Pilok Mines irregularities.

DEPUTY INTERIOR CHIEF TO MAKE INSPECTION TOUR (Thai Mai)

Gen. Luang Kampanart Saenyakorn, Deputy Interior Minister, is planning to make an inspection tour of all provinces. During his tour he will observe measures taken by the local administration for promoting public welfare. The Deputy Minister will also hold public meetings to explain the importance of the forthcoming general elections.

THAILAND TO BARTER SALT FISH FOR INDONESIAN OIL (Trade News)

According to Maj. Gen. Narong Salirathvipark, Director-General, Military Energy Department, a proposal is being made by him to the Defence Ministry and the Cabinet Council for bartering Thai salt fish for Indonesian oil. He opined that such a barter trade would not affect the business of the three foreign oil companies in Thailand, in view of the fact that oil consumption here is increasing every year by 12-15%. Only certain types of oil would be accepted in the proposed barter trade, he said.

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Vol. XII - Saturday 5th October 1957 - No. 29223

### BRISK SALE OF THAI RICE ABROAD (Siam Radh)

Lt. Col. Pachon Tharmsanong, secretary to the Economic Affairs Minister stated on September 3 that at present more orders for Thai rice are received than can be filled so that quota restrictions have to be imposed to prevent shortage within the country. Markets like Indonesia and the Philippines are needing increasing Thai rice supplies. However, it is expected that there will be no domestic scarcity of rice even though exports are reaching the target of 1.4 million tons for this year, he said. Regarding rice production, he stated that survey reports are being studied by his Ministry.

From rice merchants we learned that, pending clarification of the Ministry's rice export policy, merchants are stalling their transactions in order not to be affected by any new restrictive regulations which may be issued by the authorities.

It was also reported that the Economic Affairs Minister has suspended all special quotas for car imports until further notice.

### INVESTIGATION INTO IRREGULARITIES AT FINANCE MINISTRY (Prachatipatai)

The temporary government of Nai Pote Sarasin is being confronted with increasing difficulties, particularly in respect of financial affairs pertaining to the Finance Ministry. This is because the Pibul Administration at the time the Finance Ministry was headed by Gen. Phra Boribhand Yuthakij, with Pol. Gen. Phao Sriyanond and Lt. Gen. Prayoon Bhamornmontri as Deputy Finance Ministers, had given rise to various shortcomings, needing large scale investigation by the present government.



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Following the seizure of government power by the Military Group, a committee was named to look into the affairs of the Finance Ministry, especially the reports that some high politicians of the last government had huge sums in deposit with banks abroad. According to the London Express, Pol. Gen. Phao Sriyanond had his bank accounts in Switzerland.

Influential politicians in pre-coup days were alleged also to have obtained loans from the Finance Ministry for financing their political activities. Tens of millions of Baht have reportedly been lost by the Ministry in respect of such loans, it was stated. Some so-called political banks were said to have suffered from granting loans to political parties on the guarantee furnished by politicians who are now ousted from government service.

During his tenure as Director-General of the Police Department and the Central Information Department, Pol. Gen. Phao Sriyanond had employed large numbers of secret agents who now are unable to get paid for their past services, it was reported.

'SENGLEE' ACTIVITY CONCERNING BUDDHIST PRECINCT  
(Prachatipatai)

Before the last government launched its plans for construction of the Buddhist Precinct in Amphur Nakorn Chaisri, it was reported that influential politicians started buying the land needed for the Precinct at a comparatively cheap price for resale to the government. Farmers were scared into selling their land to the politicians who told them that otherwise it would be expropriated. The politicians also pocketed some Baht 3 million out of a grant of Baht 8 million given by the last government for preparing the land for construction.

It was learned that the Police Department will investigate the case shortly.

PUBLIC RELATIONS CHIEF ON SEA SUPPLY CORPN. (Prachatipatai)

Yesterday morning, Lt. Gen. Surachit Charuseni, Director-General, Public Relations Department stated that our country has been given valuable aid by the SEA Supply Corpn. but the last government was not aware of various misuses of the arms and equipment given by the Corporation.

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For instance, he said aircraft given by the Corporation for training purposes were used in transporting smuggled opium. Even the former Deputy Director-General, Police Department, was not aware of such nefarious activities, he said. Pending clarification concerning the aid given by SEA Supply Corp. to Thailand, the Thai press should not attack the corporation, he advised.

As for attacks on Thailand by newspapers abroad, he reported that Premier Pote Sarasin will discuss this subject with U.S. Ambassador Max Waldo Bishop.

FIELD MARSHAL SARIT IN CHOLBURI (Prachatiptai)

Yesterday Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat, Supreme Commander of the Armed Force, proceeded to Khao Samruk health resort, Changvad Cholburi, for a 10-day vacation on doctor's advice; it was reported.

REGULATIONS ON ELECTION CAMPAIGNING (Chao Thai)

During the current martial law enforcement, campaigning for election to the National Assembly by political parties and candidates may be made under the following conditions, according to a statement by the Interior Ministry.

1. Rallies may be held only for election campaigning.
2. Applications for holding such rallies have to be filed with the local police inspector in charge of the police station in respect of Bangkok and Thonburi and with the local changvad governor in respect of other provinces. If a sound amplifier is to be used during a rally, the application has to mention it. The power to grant such applications is being obtained by the Interior Ministry from the Defence Ministry for the police inspectors and the changvad governors who will have to advise the military authorities every time a political rally is permitted to be held.

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3. Speakers at campaign rallies have to observe the law and refrain from speeches causing public discontent against the government or strained relations with other countries.
4. The police authorities (for Bangkok and Thonburi) and the Amphur authorities (for other changvads) have to keep watch over political campaigning for maintenance of peace and order.

#### POLITICAL PARTIES START CAMPAIGNING (Chao Thai)

It is expected that the Democrat Party and the Sahabhum Party will enter the largest numbers of candidates for election to the National Assembly.

Already the latter party, led by Nai Sukit Nimmanhemin, with Nai Sanguan Chandrasakha as secretary-general, has printed leaflets to assist the campaign of their candidates. Besides giving the qualifications of the candidates and explaining the party's platform, the leaflets also refer to Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces. Leaflets distributed on behalf of a candidate seeking election in Changvad Srisaket quote Nai Sanguan Chandrasakha as saying that the Field Marshal has since the beginning been patronising the Sahabhum Party and that for promoting the progress of the North-east, the Party will support the Field Marshal for premiership.

As Nai Sanguan Chandrasakha is the Field Marshal's half-brother, it is believed that he is better informed than some other people, as to the true political aspirations of the Field Marshal.

#### PRESS CONTROL AUTHORITY TRANSFERRED TO POLICE DEPARTMENT (Kiattisakdi)

Lt. Gen. Prabhas Charusathien, Interior Minister, has ordered transfer of the press control authority from the changvad governors and Luang Athakavit Vathi to the Director-General, Police Department, for Bangkok and Thonburi. As for other provinces, the press control authority continues to be vested with the changvad governors as in the past. The change takes effect as from October 3, 1957.

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ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMITTEE (Thai Rai Wan)

The Cabinet Council has reportedly named a committee to suppress corruptions in co-operation with the Military Group. Information relating to official corruptions may be submitted by members of the public to the Military Command Headquarters or the Public Relations Department, it was reported.

LABOUR TROUBLE AT GREEN SPOT CO. (Kaho Parb)

Six workers have reportedly been dismissed by the Green Spot Co. on the ground of financial pressure.

According to Nai Prasong Semarasut, chairman of the Federation of Green Spot Co. Employees, the above workers had been fired because they were the promoters of the Federation. All workers will continue to fight for the reinstatement of the six workers. For the present a strike will not be called, he said.

On September 25 the Federation submitted a 6-point demand to the company. End of last month and on October 3 representatives of the company and the Federation met on the demand at the Public Welfare Department but no settlement could be reached, it was reported.

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